

Mortgage fears ease as City climate changes

Banks poised to cut back lending rate

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

Banks are expected to cut their base lending by at least 1 per cent and perhaps more today, after an extraordinary reversal of opinion in the City.

Monday's 2 per cent base rate rise is now seen as exaggerated. Oil fears have calmed with the agreement from Opec, and sterling fell to \$1.285, against a much calmer background. There is now hope of avoiding a further increase in building society mortgage rates, threatened when bank base lending rates rose on Monday.

Sterling continued to strengthen in New York because of the Opec news, gaining 0.5 cents above the London close to \$1.1325 near the close, and also making new headway against the German mark. The pound has been helped as large quantities of European, Japanese, and US money flows into London as sterling deposits to take advantage of the high interest rates while they last.

The sudden change of direction will also take some of the steam out of opposition attacks on the Government during the currency debate today, although critics are certain to argue that it proves that the Government lost control and overdid it on Monday.

Money market interest rates tumbled faster than many City operators could ever remember, to the point at which a 15 per cent base rate cut was appropriate. Some said the fall could easily be 2 per cent if not this week, then through a further cut next week.

The Bank of England was forced to put a brake on the enthusiasm late in the morning, at a time when it was not at all clear whether the tremendous drop would be sustained, because the Opec agreement was still being digested. The Bank held its own dealing rates at the new high levels established on Monday, but with great difficulty.

City opinion was strongly divided between those who expected the maximum base rate cut and those — particularly in the clearing banks which implement the decisions — who think a 1 per cent cut would be wiser. This, they say, would ensure that the foreign exchange markets do not go into another sudden paroxysm.

Lawson warns on rates, page 25; Markets, page 27

about the pound, undoing all the good work.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, is understood to welcome the drop in money market interest rates as evidence of the success of his action on Monday. But in a lunch-time speech he warned that it could be wrong to expect a rapid full-scale rate fall, since recent rises in interest rates, which totalled 4.5 per cent during January.

He said a storm had blown up, largely because of events beyond our control, but in due course the storm will blow itself out. Meanwhile, we have battered down the hatches and the ship remains on course.

This view is still consistent with a couple of percentage points of base rate rise in the near future, back to the 12 per cent established earlier this month. However, another reason for slowing down the fall is the immensity of the money supply and bank lending figures next Tuesday. These could become another source of market jitters as speculation mounts about whether they are good.

Shares displayed much the same manic-depressive behaviour as interest rates, with a sudden brightening due to a new record on Wall Street the night before the Opec agreement and tumbling money market interest rates. The FT 30 share index rose 25.5 to 988.7 and a calculation by Datastream showed that \$4.6 billion had been put on shares, going a long way towards wiping out the \$7 billion losses of the previous two days. Government stocks also leapt by more than 2p in the pound, which prompted a \$500 million issue by the Bank of England.

Hard-bitten City dealers, exhausted by the roller-coaster of the last few days, are still keeping a wary lookout for bad news which could upset things again. But at least one clearing bank was certain that if the pound stayed around \$1.15 the Bank of England would allow a rate fall.

With apparently bad timing the Trustee Savings Bank increased its mortgage rate from 12 per cent to 15 per cent with effect from March. This is the first bank to increase its mortgage rate to take account of the recent rise in building society rates and this week's base rate increases.

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Bluff called in Opec price split

NCB dismisses Scargill's proposals

By John Hooper, City Editor

Opec oil ministers conceded yesterday that they had been unable to reconcile their differing views over pricing and agreed a deal from which three of the organisation's 13 member states publicly dissociated themselves.

The majority, led by conservative Saudi Arabia, is clearly expecting that economic realisation will force the dissenters, all from the real oil camp in the Middle East, back into line.

Looking exhausted after two and a half days of often bad-tempered talks, the Indonesian Indonesian president, Dr Suharto, said: "It is not a failure, but I must admit it is a success."

However, dealers on the Rotterdam spot market, who had been expecting an even worse failure, took the news calmly. In the US prices even rose and it is quite likely that over the next few weeks effects of the recent cold weather and company stock depletion could relieve the intense downward pressure on prices under which Opec has been writhing since the end of last summer.

One of the principal forces behind the cartel has been the application of modern pricing techniques which has increased the value of the traditionally lower priced heavy crudes and reduced that of the traditionally higher priced light crudes.

Under the scheme announced yesterday the gap between the prices that Opec charges for its heaviest and lightest crudes, which is currently \$3.75-4.00, would be narrowed to a figure "in the order of \$2.40". This would be achieved by a cut in the price of the lightest and costliest crudes of about \$1.60. But since that crude is produced by one of the nations which refuses to accept the agreement — Algeria — this aspect of the plan is effectively meaningless.

The most important decision in practice is likely to be a cut of one dollar in the price of Arabian light, the crude which has served Opec as its "marker" grade.

From the British point of view the most important aspect of the deal is that Nigeria, which cut the price of its key output to \$28 in the wake of the plan, is effectively out.

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It is accepted that a fifth Heathrow terminal is likely, but there appears to be a dispute among ministers about the desirability of a modest expansion at Stansted, with Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, favouring a compromise.

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which would still mean a substantial number of flights to the Essex airport.

Other Government members favour expansion elsewhere, including limited development of regional airports in response to some backbenchers' arguments that the plan would bring business and jobs to the North.

However, they do not see this as an alternative to the Stansted proposal, only part of the compromise to be worked out.

The strength of the Conservative vote became clear early when the Speaker indicated that 50 MPs wished to speak — practically all Conservatives in opposition.

Mr Ridley's explanation that he could not take a position during the debate because of his "quasi-judicial role" did not appear to wash with the backbenchers, nor did his pledge of a Commons debate after the government decision on the "inspector's report."

Mr Alan Haselhurst, Conservative MP for Saffron Walden, led the attack with an accusation that the British Airports Authority had worked too closely with the government to ensure "that time, and again Stansted appeared to be the only option. They have shown unsavoury determination to get their own way."

Mr Haselhurst said many residents favoured limited expansion of Stansted and he hoped that the issue could be resolved by a fifth Heathrow terminal development of regional airports and some expansion at Luton.

the hullion recovered so far, believed to be worth £300,000, had been smelted down and was not at this stage identifiable as having been stolen from the Brinks-Mat warehouse. The original haul was estimated at the time of the robbery to be worth £26 million.

Police have also recovered a quantity of jewellery and other property during the raids and excavations but would not say whether these items had been positively identified as coming from the Brinks-Mat robbery. A spokesman said: "The investigation is continuing."

Report demolishes rate-capping case

Labour agrees jobs campaign

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

An unpublished report commissioned by the Department of the Environment has demolished the Government's intellectual justification for controlling local authority rates to protect businesses and jobs.

The report, of a £50,000 study by the Department of Land Economy at Cambridge University concludes that there is no relationship between high rates and unemployment in the private sector.

Indeed, it suggests that high rates may positively assist job prospects by allowing councils to increase the size of their workforces without affecting the number of jobs in factories, shops and offices.

The report was delivered to the DoE last week. It linked to the Guardian yesterday as Mr Patrick Jenkin published the first of his rate-capping Orders setting statutory limits to the rate precepts which can be charged by the "profligate" councils for Merseyside, South Yorkshire, the GLC, and Inner London Education Authority.

When ministers introduced the rate-capping legislation last year, they repeated its call for a concerted campaign of speeches to argue that it was necessary to protect local businesses.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, said that rate increases "destroy existing jobs and deter new firms from setting up."

Mr Norman Fowler said: "There can be no doubt that excessive rates do destroy jobs or that they have pushed some businesses over the brink."

And Mr Patrick Jenkin said: "Industry knows that rates cost jobs and that rates are a larger burden than national insurance surcharge and corporation tax combined. Excessive rates have added to unemployment difficulties in some areas and are certainly one of the reasons for the exodus of small firms from the inner cities."

This argument has now been undermined by the Cambridge research study which the DoE commissioned in October, 1983.

The findings suggest that local authorities that have above-average levels of rates, or that levy above-average rate increases, are probably not damaging their local economies," it says.

"There may be reasons for restraining the level of rates in an area, but the potentially harmful effect of high rates on local employment ought not to be one of them."

The researchers were chosen by the DoE for their independence and high professional reputation. They point out in their report that their conclusions "are based on one of the most detailed studies of local employment changes ever undertaken in Britain."

The findings will amaze the CBI and other business pressure groups which have argued

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Teachers may act

INSIDE

TEACHERS are poised for action, which could soon lead to children being sent home from school. Back page.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teachers may act

TEACHERS are poised for action, which could soon lead to children being sent home from school. Back page.

New-look BBC1

A REVAMPED BBC1 will feature a new screen symbol and new times for many programmes, including Panorama. Page 10.

Death watch

AS A man was put to death, protesters clutching candles prayed and sang We shall overcome. Nearby, Florida police officers whooped and cheered. Page 21.

Nato at odds

NATO allies are still at odds over their proposals for the Stockholm disarmament conference. Page 10.

Peers plan

THREE Labour "working peers" are expected to be created this summer. Page 3.

Market moves

POUND up 0.0120 to \$1.1285; FT index up 25.5 to 988.7; Dow Jones down 4.74 to 1287.58. Markets, page 27.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE:

Austria 25 sh  
Belgium 45  
Denmark 8.50 kr  
France 7.00 fr  
Germany 3.00 dm  
Greece 100 dr  
Italy 1,600 lire  
Japan 160 yen  
Netherlands 200 gld  
Portugal 200 esc  
Spain 160 pes  
Switzerland 170 fr

Police strike gold at mansion

By David Hearst

Police searching for three tons of gold and jewellery, stolen from the Brinks-Mat warehouse near Heathrow Airport 15 months ago, had by last night recovered 40 kilos of smelted bullion, and this was undergoing forensic examination.

Throughout the day teams of policemen, wearing spades and shovels, dug their way through the grounds of a stately mansion near Bath, a search which was being conducted at a bungalow in West Kingsdown, Kent.

A corrugated iron and earthen smelter had already been discovered in three acres of woodland behind the house near Bath, called Battledore, and yesterday's search is thought to have revealed small traces of gold in the grounds.

Sixteen people, including two women, were still being held without charge by police last night after raids on a number of houses in London, Bath and Bristol, which started early on Tuesday morning. At the time 24 people were detained, but eight were released.

The operation was being co-ordinated by Scotland Yard's central robbery squad, CS, and whose head, Commander Frank Cater, is due to retire today.

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Ridley looks for deal on Stansted

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

SENIOR Ministers admitted yesterday that the proposal to expand Stansted airport to handle 15 million passengers a year stood no chance of getting government approval, and said that the search for a compromise was on.

Key members of the Government privately accept that the strength of Conservative opposition to the proposals in the report by Mr Graham Eyre, QC, advocating Stansted's go-ahead as London's third airport, has halted the scheme. They are considering how best to placate the interest groups whose concern about airport policy was exhibited in last night's Commons debate.

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NCB dismisses Scargill's proposals

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board last night appeared to rule out fresh talks with the National Union of Mineworkers to end the pit strike by suggesting that Mr Arthur Scargill's new proposals were "about as new as Thatcher's bonnet."

Mr Michael Eaton, the board's chief spokesman, said late last night that the NCB had received a letter from Mr Scargill which merely re-stated previous positions. "It is likely, therefore, that this phase of negotiations will come to an end."

According to Mr Eaton, the NUM's letter contained no reference to pit closures but covered old ground which had been dealt with in previous negotiations. Mr Eaton would not say what reply, if any, the NCB would send back to the NUM executive, which was standing by in London last night after meeting at TUC headquarters for four hours yesterday.

Mr Eaton's words suggested that there will be no further talks.

ther for the NUM executive to consider today when they resume their meeting, unless they enter into a prior commitment to reach agreement with the NCB on pit closures.

This would be unlikely, since the executive spent most of yesterday's emergency debate, after they had hurriedly been called overnight to London, emphasising that no advance commitment was possible.

The executive unanimously reaffirmed that it would give no written guarantee and repeated its call for talks without pre-conditions.

Mr Scargill, the NUM president, said that the assurances given by Mr Merrick Spanton, the board's member for personnel, and Mr Ned Smith, the NCB industrial relations director, "still lead us to believe that there could be a resumption of negotiations without pre-conditions. The NCB replied last night that these points were irrelevant, since the board had already promised to review them."

Mr Sid Vincent, the Lancashire miners' leader, said afterwards that it had not been necessary for the executive to vote on the question of uneconomic pits. "We are standing firm. The ball is in the NCB's court as far as we are concerned."

His colleague, Mr Eric Clarke, the NUM's Scottish general secretary, said that the NUM could give no written guarantees. "To do that would be to give up our birthright, and no trade union official could do that."

The Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, died last night that the NCB or the Government intended to go beyond the agreement negotiated last night with Nacods, the pit supervisory board of March 6 last.

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Labour agrees jobs campaign

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent

The Labour Party will fire the first shot in its general election campaign straight after the budget on March 19 by launching a programme to persuade the electorate of its ability to reduce unemployment.

The "Jobs and Industry" campaign, planned as the central plank in Labour's manifesto, marks a significant policy shift.

Labour's leadership will continue to attack the Conservative record on jobs and the economy as today's Commons debate will prove — but the Shadow Cabinet has also acknowledged that it if is to regain power it must put forward a job creation plan of relatively wide-scale unemployment, and that anti-Tory votes are as likely to go to Alliance as to Labour without a more viable and material job creation programme.

The campaign will detail Labour's plans for job creation and industrial growth in specific regions and sectors of the economy. Its initial phase is planned to run through to the next party conference in the autumn.

The campaign will be led by the trade and industry spokesman, Mr John Smith and the employment spokesman Mr Labour with a job on its hands, page 21.

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## Brittan defines Special Branch targets

By Stephen Cook  
THE HOME Secretary, Mr. Leon Brittan, last night of political activists and other campaigners a do-it-yourself method of working out whether the special branch might have marked them down as subversives and put them under surveillance.

Such people should ask themselves two questions, he told the Commons home affairs committee inquiry into the special branch. Did they intend to harm the safety or well-being of the state, and did they intend to undermine or overthrow parliamentary democracy?

The answer to both questions had to be yes if they were to fall within the official definition of subversion and become legitimate targets of the special branch, Mr Brittan said. If the answer to only one question was yes, the person should not be a target.

It was not necessary for someone to have committed or be contemplating a criminal offence to be classed as a subversive, Mr Brittan said. It would be wrong to prevent the special branch investigating people whose real motives, under a cloak of respectability, were to harm our democracy.

He denied that this meant that anyone could be classed as a subversive at will by the special branch, and refused to elucidate how judgments about people's motives might be made. But he agreed with committee members that special branch officers had a different difficult and sensitive task, and might sometimes make mistakes.

Mr Brittan said that he was broadly happy with the current double-headed definition of subversion, first drawn up by the Labour government in 1975. However, he would be glad to consider any new definition which the committee might come up with in their inquiry, which has now finished taking oral evidence.

The Home Secretary said that the present Government had been more liberal on special branch matters than any predecessor, and had tightened and published the guidelines under which it worked. Rules on record-keeping, in particular, had been made more rigorous.

He added that there was less public disquiet about the special branch than was sometimes claimed. "Hundreds of innocent people have been saved from the bomb because of special branch information," he said.

He encouraged a chief constable to keep necessary information from their special branch files, and urged them to publish as much as possible about special branch work.

Mr Brittan rejected the suggestion of Mr David Winkler, Labour MP for Walsall, that there must be hundreds of thousands of people like Mrs Madeleine Elphinstone Coldfield, who was apparently considered by some special branch officers to be a security risk.

Mrs Elphinstone, who was visited by special branch after writing to a paper opposing cruise missiles, was being repeatedly cited in a 200-page report, Mr Brittan said. A mistake had been made and admitted in her case.

## Woman's baby dies after doctors fail to find spare cot at intensive care unit

# Epidural accident leaves mother in coma

By Andrew Welch  
Medical Correspondent  
Cuts and complacency by ministers and Department of Health officials were blamed yesterday for an accident with an epidural anaesthetic at a maternity hospital which has left a mother in a coma and her baby dead. More women could be at risk, it was said.

The anaesthetic was injected into the spine of 29-year-old Mrs Oladunmi Ikumelo, a mother of two, as she gave birth at Newham Maternity Hospital, east London.

Her daughter was deprived of oxygen and died 36 hours later, before doctors could find an intensive care unit to take her. An inquest last week produced a verdict of death by misadventure. Mrs Ikumelo is still in a coma six months after the accident.

Professor Osmond Reynolds,

the director of the neonatal intensive care unit at University College Hospital, London, and adviser to the Commons Social Services Committee, said yesterday: "It seems likely that these tragedies will continue."

He said that health ministers had rejected a recommendation from the Social Services Committee, published shortly before the Newham tragedy. This said that the Department of Health should set to ensure safe standards of anaesthesia in maternity hospitals. "The Government is providing no central direction," he said.

They had shifted responsibility to local health authorities without providing the data or the money to ensure standards were improved.

Last week's inquest was told that it took doctors two and a half hours to find an intensive

care unit with a spare cot for the baby, by which time it was too late to save her.

"There is gross under-provision of intensive care units," said Professor Reynolds. "We at UCH refuse as many babies as we admit. Only 22 of our 34 cots are open because of a shortage of nurses."

About 10,000 women a year are given epidural anaesthetics, and problems are estimated to occur in one in 1,500-2,000 cases, according to Dr Michael Rosen, the consultant anaesthetist at University Hospital, Cardiff, who gave evidence at last week's inquest.

But the Department of Health does not keep records of epidural tragedies and it is feared that the numbers may be higher. Confidential Medical Defence Union figures showed that there were 438 out-of-court settlements involving

epidurals up to 1982. Mrs Beverly Bach of the Association for Improvements in Maternity Services, claimed yesterday.

Mrs Sheila Kittinger, whose Good Birth Guide gives Newham Maternity Hospital two stars said: "This hospital has an excellent epidural service. If an accident can happen here, what is happening in other hospitals with a lower standard of service?"

She added: "We have a right to know how many women have suffered long-term consequences as a result of epidurals."

The inquest was told that Mrs Ikumelo was attended by agency midwives on the night of the birth. One of them, it was said, administered a top-up injection of the anaesthetic. Marcella Newman, the duty anaesthetist, Dr Ian Blair, was not

present when the top-up was given, the inquest heard. He had been on duty all weekend and was in his room, some distance from the delivery room.

Dr Rosen told the inquest that there had been no failure under current standards of practice. However, the hospital has since issued instructions that an anaesthetist must be present when top-ups are given.

The Labour MP for Newham North-East, Mr Ron Leighton, urged ministers to collect figures on epidural tragedies to review the system of using agency nurses, ensuring that they are given proper instructions, and to improve intensive care facilities for babies.

"This has been an awful tragedy, but I'm not criticising any individual," he said yesterday. "We must make sure

it does not happen again. We have a right to know how many epidurals have gone wrong."

The solicitor who represented Mrs Ikumelo's husband, Claudiu, at the inquest, Mr Kevin O'Reilly, claimed yesterday he had reports of eight other epidural tragedies. He accused the Department of Health of complacency in failing to monitor the figures and set standards.

Mr Ikumelo, a student from Nigeria who has given up his studies to care for his two children, said: "I am not blaming individual doctors or midwives, but the safety of epidurals needs to be questioned."

"They wanted to switch off my wife's life support machine. I refused. While she breathes, she lives."

## Ponting 'at odds with minister' on Belgrano replies

By Paul Keel and Richard Norton-Taylor

Clive Ponting, the senior Defence Ministry civil servant charged under the Official Secrets Act with passing sensitive information about the Belgrano, was at odds with one of his ministers over how to handle questions about the sinking of the Argentine warship, an Old Bailey jury heard yesterday.

Mr Ponting, aged 39, of Islington, London, who denies the charge alleging that he passed two documents to an unauthorised person—Mr Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP—argued that honesty was the ministry's best course.

He told that information about the position and course of the Belgrano when she was attacked on May 2, 1982, was two years later, no longer classified and could be given to Mr Dalyell, who had asked the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, for detailed information.

Mr Bruce Laugland, QC, defending, said the Armed Forces Minister, Mr John Stanley, "disagreed with that course of conduct, the reason being that it was not consistent with statements that other ministers had made at some other time."

"Cross-examining Mr Richard Mottram," Mr Heseltine's private secretary, Mr Laugland suggested that Mr Stanley's objective had been to keep the Defence Secretary "out of deep waters"—yet the answers to Mr Dalyell's questions had emerged without damage to him.

Mr Mottram agreed that the answers themselves were not damaging but said speculation was "Damage can be silenced by candour where it is possible to give the answer. Where it is

not, the person is placed in a very difficult position because his inability to answer is treated as suspicious."

Asked by Mr Laugland whether he had been aware of any "united front within the Department of Defence to thwart legitimate inquiries by members of Parliament about this matter of public concern," Mr Mottram replied: "Certainly not."

Was it not a civil servant's duty to be candid when questioned by select committees and to disregard matters of "mere political embarrassment?" Mr Laugland said ministers decided the response to such committees: "It is ministers who are accountable to the House, and not officials."

Mr Laugland complained earlier to Mr Justice McCowan that he faced difficulties in defending his client. He wanted to cross-examine Mr Mottram on matters in the "Crown Jewels" prosecution document which could not be disclosed in open court.

Mr Roy Amlot, prosecuting, expressed concern that Mr Laugland might want to mention a Cabinet minute in open court which could set an unfortunate precedent as Cabinet documents were always classified.

Mr Justice McCowan said: "It may be unfortunate for the press and public that some matters were covered in camera which are not security-sensitive because they happened to be in the Crown Jewels. But can it benefit the defendants or jury to have to hear about it twice?"

Mr Laugland could have cross-examined the majority of the document when it was before the jury in camera, he added. The trial continues today.



Actress Cindy Oswin, dressed as Queen Elizabeth I, accepts flowers from Young National Trust Theatre players upon her arrival at the National Portrait Gallery in London yesterday for a theatre festival at the gallery. Picture by Kenneth Saunders

## Quarterly poor lose cold snap rebate because of pre-Christmas mild spell

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Pensioners and poor families living in East Anglia and the gas or electricity quarterly will not receive anything towards the incurred during the recent cold spell. When temperatures fell low enough to warrant special allowances to the poor.

The Department of Health and Social Security confirmed yesterday that such consumers will be exempt from help. Payments will be made to people who have hot meters or use coal, oil and paraffin.

Extra payments due to quarterly customers will be cancelled out by calculations showing that they needed to spend less on heating before Christmas during a mild spell. The calculation was based on those covered by the Heathrow and Harington weather station readings: London, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Kent, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Surrey and Sussex.

According to a Department of Health spokesman, the bad weather in the middle of January would normally entitle the

poor to claim as much as 34 per cent of their normal fuel bills for those weeks.

But savings people made during mild weather covering the previous 13 weeks wiped out the extra payment.

Ms Davina Judelson of the Community House Information Centre, which covers the Paddington and Marylebone areas of London, said yesterday: "We doubt there are many claimants with slot meters. We also think the number of claimants eligible will be very small."

## Most 'pre-arranged losers' on Fleet Street bingo

By Seamus Milne

Allegations that Fleet Street Bingo each week were never games of chance and are manipulated by newspapers to fix the number of winners will be made tonight on Thames Television's TV Eye.

The programme makers' claims come barely 24 hours after Britain's biggest-selling daily paper, the Sun, created the number bingo millionaire, Mrs Phyllis Hanton, at what the paper called a "glittering

ceremony" yesterday at the London Hilton.

According to TV Eye and independent statisticians, the game's 3 million players do not have the slightest chance of winning even a few thousand pounds because they have numbers on their bingo cards that will never be called.

The same basic system is said to be used in the bingo games run by the Daily Star and the Daily Mirror. All are

designed by the Blackburn-based firm, Europrint, which also runs the Times's version of bingo, Portfolio.

The man who first took the lid of Fleet Street bingo is a 61-year-old unemployed painter and decorator from the Black Country town of Oldbury, Mr Jack Lake.

Mr Lake is an amateur number-cruncher and bingo fanatic. When the Sun launched bingo in June 1981 he managed to amass about a thousand of the

cards used to play the game. He soon detected a pattern in the numbers which were called every day in the Sun and the Sunday sister paper, the News of the World. A different group of about 10 numbers (out of the 90 used in Bingo) each week were never called, and occurred on a 15-week cycle. And every one of Jack Lake's 1,000 cards had at least one of these numbers every week.

Mr Lake first voiced his doubts on the BBC radio programme You and Yours, and his findings were then passed to the Department of Consumer Services at West Midlands County Council.

TV Eye claims that it has taken the story further and can now prove all Mr Lake's suspicions. The games are pre-arranged, tonight's programme will allege, to avoid the risk of randomly large numbers of winners and to maximise newspaper sales.

Previous Office of Fair Trading investigations into the game found that the Department of Consumer Services at West Midlands County Council.

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## Science aid boosted as backbench Tories fume over snub

By Martin Wainwright and Andrew Moneur

MORE than 80 Conservative MPs had last night signed a Commons motion condemning the Oxford University scientists who turned out in force to vote down an honorary doctorate for the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher.

In a separate move the Department of Education and Science chose yesterday to announce the launching of two new science working parties. One will aim to find how more private money can be attracted to research councils and colleges. The other will investigate the advanced computing needs of the research councils and universities.

At Westminster, Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North), who put down the motion, said the dons' decision was "a gratuitous insult to the Prime Minister."

Mr John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, said that Mrs Thatcher's achievements would shine like a beacon long after the dons had been consigned to the dustbin of history. Mr Terry Dicks, MP for Hayes and Harlington, said that the dons' contribution to the country's well-being was "frequently less than zero."

Mrs Thatcher herself appeared only too pleased to let the matter rest, although her agent in Finchley, London, made a robust attack on the university.

"You must remember that they were the people who appealed to Hitler in the 1930s and said they would not go to war," said Mr Andrew Thomson, who has been agent for three years.

There was general surprise at Oxford at the size of the vote. Thanks to the turn-out of scientists and medical researchers, few of whom had ever been to congregation at the university's governing assembly before, the vote was 738 to 219, a margin of more than two to one.

"It is that we won't see any more potentially controversial political candidates for some time," said one don.

One victim of this attitude could be the former Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, who might expect an honour from his alma mater, Cambridge University, judging by awards to previous holders of the office.

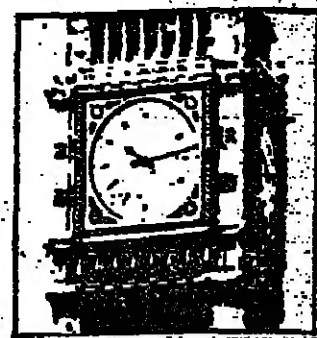
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David McKie

## Fog on runway horror goes on

IN all ways but one, Mr Alan Haselhurst is probably a supremely happy man. Eight years ago he was elected Conservative Member for Saffron Walden, which could well guarantee him a ticket to Westminster for life. And the recession, which has blighted so much of Britain, has brushed lightly over these acres: only 2,300 people there are listed as unemployed.

But there is one dreadful drawback to sitting for Saffron Walden. Every now and then some malign coven of plotters up in London attempts to dump a major airport on you. Back in the early sixties it was R. A. Butler who, had to trot around the villages assuring the people that it would probably never happen. Now, when the British Airports Authority comes back yet again to claim what it considers its rights, it is to Mr Haselhurst that his constituents turn for succour.

Or at least, some of them do. In the mid-sixties Douglas Jay used to solicit Labour support for Standed by claiming that the clamour against it came from the well-heeled middle classes; the silent legions of

the proletariat were really solidly behind him. And this week the BAA published a MORI poll showing that people within 30 miles of Standed favoured development by a majority of three to one.

Totally misleading, Mr Haselhurst told the Commons yesterday. Certainly, a majority of local people do favour some expansion, but some vociferous anti-Standeders — favoured some expansion. If London's airports were approaching saturation (not that he accepted they were) they'd be willing to quit the city. But, fully-armed, MORI would have got a different, dustier answer had it confronted the voters with that.

MORI apart, Mr Haselhurst had everything in his favour yesterday. Virtually no-one could be found to speak for the other side. The Transport Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, is thought to favour the Standed solution, but all he could do yesterday was assert his utter neutrality. As the man with his Environment colleague in Gow who has to take the final decision, his lips are sealed till the day of judgment comes. The real dispute yesterday was with someone who was up in the gallery and couldn't answer back: the government inspector, Mr Geoffrey Evans, QC, who had recommended the Standed expansion.

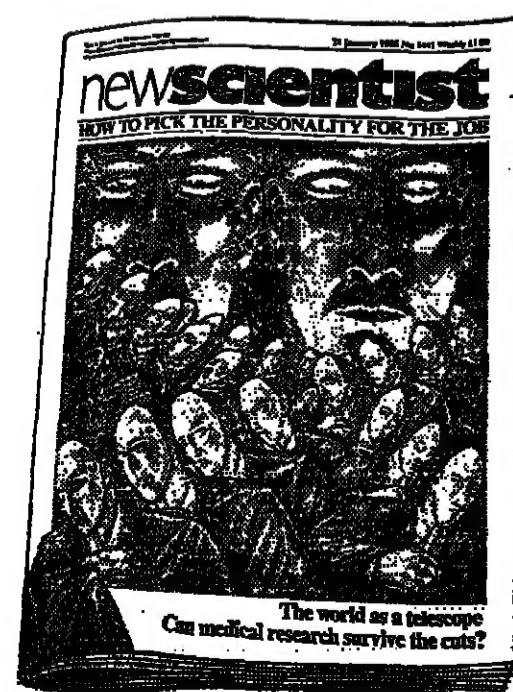
The Labour Party, too, was vehemently against Standed yesterday, though the clumsy and maudlin performance of their transport spokesman, Mrs Donwoudy, showed signs at times of putting the cross-party alliance under strain. You'd get more support from this side, one Tory warned her, if you attacked the Eyre proposal rather than the Government.

All Morris (Labour Wythenshawe), one of the chief activists in the powerful cross-party pressure group which sees Standed as a threat to airports in the regions, especially Manchester, picked up the hint. "I'd be very happy to talk to Mr Ridley," he said, "but not Mr Ridley. His case, though here and there underlined the doubts Mr Eyre had about the realism of the regionalist case. The employment in Manchester he irretrievably claimed, was higher than around Standed. But if that's the test the next major airport ought to be in Strabane."

No demands for once yesterday for an emergency debate on the miners' but the Speaker was in trouble, even so. He'd accepted a motion deploring the sighting of Mrs Thatcher by Oxford dons. So why asked Mr Roland Boyes (Labour Houghton), had he rejected one deploring the failure of Droylesden and Tildesley secondary school to honour that distinguished Old Droylesdenian, Mr Allan Roberts (Labour Bootle)?

Read Erlaine May, the Speaker said. Motions tabled in a spirit of mockery didn't count. Mr Boyes's jaw fell. Mockery? This was deadly serious. The Westminster class bias had struck again.

## Job hunting: art or science?



This week, New Scientist investigates personality-testing by employers in the age of the small workforce and the long queue for jobs. And offers students a unique job section of their own. Plus, a radio telescope as big as the earth, a new vaccine dreamed up for chemical warfare that could save rare birds, and will the Government cut the heart out of medical research?

**newscientist**  
Tomorrow's news today  
Every Thursday

## Review for Moors pair

By Malcolm Dean

The Moors murderers, Ian Brady and Myra Hindley, will shortly be given a review date on their life sentences of the first step in a release procedure which could still take years.

The case papers on Brady convicted of murdering two children and a youth aged 17, and Hindley, convicted of two of the murders have been sent to the Home Secretary.

The papers include reports from the Lord Chief Justice and the prisons, Gartree in Leicestershire and Cookham Wood women's prison in Kent, where they are held. The trial judge is no longer alive but the letter he wrote after sentencing them 19 years ago will be on the file.

Under the new release procedure for life sentences announced by the Home Secretary in 1983, he now has to set a date when the review procedure must begin. There are no limits on how far ahead he sets it.

The cases will be examined by the local review committees attached to Gartree and Cookham Wood whose recommendations will go to a four-member Parole Board panel, including a High Court judge and psychiatrist, and then to the Home Secretary for final approval.

The Home Secretary cannot release a life without a parole. The Parole Board reviewed 301 life sentences in 1983, making 110 recommendations for release, of which the Home Secretary rejected 14.

## Kasparov storms his way to a second victory

By Leonard Barden Chess Correspondent

Gary Kasparov scored his second victory at the marathon world chess series in Moscow yesterday when he stormed through with central pawn attack. Anatoly Karpov had to resign on move 33, faced with loss of rook and bishop, in one of the worst defeats of his career.

Though Karpov still leads 5-2 in the first-to-six match, he has looked jaded in recent games while Kasparov has begun to play with increasing confidence. At 21, Kasparov is 12 years younger than his rival and ever since his terrible start of four losses in nine games he has aimed for a battle of attrition.

Kasparov played the final attack with dynamic energy and Karpov may recall his 1978 title defence against Korchnoi when the latter recovered from 2-5 to 5-5 before losing 5-6.

By Penny Chorlton  
The Royal College of Surgeons was accused in court yesterday of causing unnecessary suffering to caged monkeys at its animal research establishment at Buckton Browne Farm, Downe, in Kent.

Bromley magistrates were told by Mr John MacKenzie, solicitor of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, that several macaque monkeys had suffered and at least two had died from injuries caused by inadequate housing.



The union had obtained proof of the alleged cruelty after a raid on the farm on August 26 last year. The Royal College of Surgeons said that about 50 people had broken into the premises, causing damage worth £15,000.

Mr MacKenzie told the court that incident reports dated last summer showed that two monkeys had died after getting their arms trapped in the communal steel cage.

In another incident a monkey had been treated for dehydration after it had been kept in an unventilated cage in temperatures between 85 and 92 degrees Fahrenheit.

The monkeys were being used in long-term dental experiments but Mr MacKenzie pointed out that their injuries had been caused by neglect in the way they had been housed, not in the process of research. The Royal College was responsible for causing unnecessary suffering under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act.

The Royal College pleaded not guilty to the private summons brought by the BUAV. The case continues today.

## Monkeys 'ill-treated by surgeons'

By Penny Chorlton

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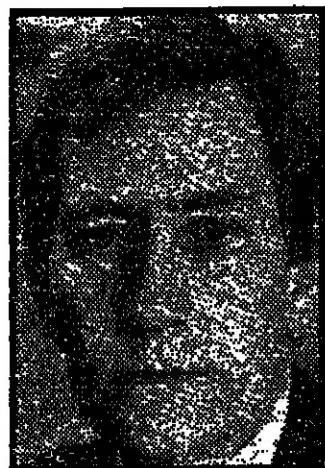




# Outrages bring clamour to disband UDR



Douglas Hurd:  
"confident"



Seamus Mallon:  
"alienation"

Paul Johnson in Belfast reports on the tarnished image of this area of the security forces and the growing nationalist discontent with it

THE Republic's opposition leader, Mr Charles Haughey, and the deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party of the North, Mr Seamus Mallon, called yesterday for the disbanding of the Ulster Defence Regiment, highlighting nationalist discontent with this arm of the security forces.

Mr Mallon, one of the UDR's most strident critics, described it as a bar to political progress and probably the greatest single factor in alienation among the minority in Northern Ireland.

At last week's SDLP annual conference Mr Mallon claimed that weeding out bad elements was pointless because the regiment as a whole was beyond reform. It had seriously tarnished the name of law and order and justice in Northern Ireland.

Mr Mallon and those of a like persuasion in Northern Ireland argue that the UDR

— which was formed in 1970 to replace the discredited B Specials — has gone down the same road and now embodies deep sectarianism and a commitment to paramilitary action.

The regiment has assumed a high public profile recently. Earlier this month a 17-year-old joyrider was shot dead and two companions were wounded when they drove through a routine vehicle checkpoint in Belfast. They were unarmed.

Last week a UDR private was sentenced to life imprisonment after he had admitted murdering a Sinn Féin election worker, Peter Corrigan, and attempting to kill six other Roman Catholics.

After the shooting of Mr Corrigan responsibility for the murder was claimed by the Protestant Action Force, a peripheral paramilitary organisation, which has car-

ried out several sectarian outrages in the past decade. The UDR private, Geoffrey Edwards, told police that it was more than his life was worth to reveal the names of accomplices or the location of weapons.

Meanwhile, six members of the UDR, have been charged in connection with the murder of a well-known republican, Adrian Carroll, who was shot dead on his doorstep in Armagh in 1983.

While the force is continually criticised by nationalists as vicious and sectarian, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Douglas Hurd, has been unequivocal in its defence. It was, he said yesterday, a disciplined regiment which performed an indispensable role in Northern Ireland. Mr Hurd has claimed that anyone who knows anything about the regiment, the men, and the

calibre of command, has full confidence in it. Although the UDR is a regiment of the British Army it is unique in that it serves only in Northern Ireland and all its members must live in the province. It also has men and women within its ranks and contains full and part-time soldiers.

The permanent strength of the nine UDR battalions stands at 2,600 full-timers and 4,000 part-timers. In the years after its formation in 1970 the Roman Catholic element was about 18 per cent, but this has now dwindled to little more than 3 per cent — or fewer than 200.

Growing alienation among the minority community and warnings from the IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army that Catholics must not join have been largely responsible. The UDR fits into the se-

curity pattern of Northern Ireland by providing first-line army support to the RUC. It does not, however, get involved with crowd control, riots or plain-clothes duties and, because of this, goes into only 85 per cent of the province. Four of the more sensitive areas — West Belfast, parts of Londonderry, a portion of County Tyrone, and west of the river Foyle — are left unpatrolled by the UDR.

Unionists who defend the role of the regiment point to statistics which show that 147 UDR soldiers — including four women — have been killed since 1971. Of these, 120 were on duty. Another 288 have been wounded.

They argue that the UDR, especially in the border areas where it draws much of its strength from the Protestant community, is possibly the single largest factor

in holding the Republican paramilitaries at bay. Those who are worried about the partiality of the force point to the words of Geoffrey Edwards, the UDR private now serving life, who told police that he had 15 friends in the regiment murdered by terrorists in the past seven years. It was time, he told the detectives, to do something more about it.

## £2m for firms

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd yesterday announced that another 1,800 people in the province are to be offered assistance to start up their own business.

The enterprise allowances would cost £2 million in the 1985-86 financial year in addition to the money spent on 1,300 people recruited in the current year, he said.

# Youth training proposal pledge

By Colin Brown and Sarah Boseley

Proposals for improving the training of 14 to 18-year-olds are to be published in about three weeks, Lord Young, the Cabinet minister heading the Enterprise Unit, told the Commons Select Committee on Employment yesterday.

Lord Young backtracked on an earlier speech advancing the case for removing supplementary benefit from young people who were out of work, were not on training courses and not taking further education.

Lord Young said his speech had been misrepresented. He said there was no intention to recommend the removal of benefit from 16 to 17-year-olds forthwith.

He could see circumstances in which benefit must be paid "in cases of need." But he did not rule out the possibility of some reduction in benefit for those neither taking further education nor further training.

The Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King, attempted to reassure a House of Commons select committee yesterday that the closure of a third of Britain's Skillcentres was part of a strategy to increase and improve training for adults.

The Skillcentre Training Agency (STA), an arm of the

Manpower Services Commission, has been instructed to recover its costs by 1986-7. Proposals to do so by closing 29 of the 37 centres while employing 300 mobile instructors to carry out retraining — mainly in employers' factories — were passed by a narrow majority of the MSC last week. Mr King now has the opportunity to approve or overturn their decision.

In the light of a report from Dr Andrew Likierman of the London Business School — an adviser to the committee — which suggests that a national Skillcentre network was incompatible with this financial policy, Mr King was asked whether he wanted to maintain a national network.

He conceded that there was a case "for keeping what is the only national training network of this kind." But he said that adult training should in future meet the needs of new technology. Employers must play a greater part in this training.

Questioned about the potential neglect of the unemployed, Mr King, who was accompanied by the employment minister, Mr Peter Morrison, said that employers would be encouraged by grant-aided packages to take on more staff and train them in the job. The mobile instructors would help.

## Poly union faces ban

By Andrew Moncar, Education Staff

The National Union of Students warned yesterday that it was ready to sever links with Sunderland Polytechnic's student body, which has blocked the creation of an unrestricted Jewish society.

The student representative council at Sunderland voted on Tuesday not to allow a society to be formed at the polytechnic because its stated aims include the promotion of Zionism.

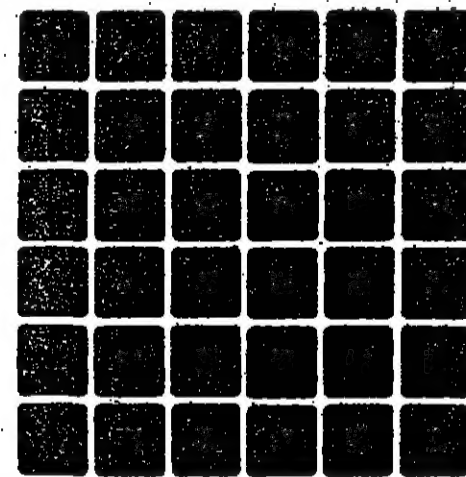
Instead, it allowed the formation of a separate society, whose constitution excluded any mention of Zionism. This was immediately dismissed as a "stodge society" by the National Union of Jewish Students.

Mr Bill Woolas, president of the NUS, told the polytechnic's student union yesterday that its actions amounted to racism. "Which the NUS will not tolerate from any quarter." He said that he would take steps to suspend the polytechnic union from the NUS.

## APPOINTMENTS General

### HONOURS GRADUATES

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Appointments continue on page 14



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# THE DAY IN POLITICS

## Ridley stays on the runway

STANSTED

By Alan Travis  
The Government's embarrasment over the Conservative backbench revolt over plans to develop Stansted as London's third airport was apparent in the Commons last night when Mr Nicholas Ridley, Transport Secretary, told MPs that because of the extreme delicacy of his position in the debate on the Stansted report the Government could not voice its views and whips and ministers would not vote after the debate.

The depth of Conservative opposition was typified by Sir Alan Haselhurst (C. Suffolk, Walsden), who accused the British Airports Authority and the Government of deception in making sure that Stansted appeared to be the only option time and time again.

A procedural manoeuvre by the Government to take a straight vote on the issue, the sting out of the backbench revolt meant that the proposal on Stansted was debated on a procedural motion to adjourn the Commons rather than a straight vote on the issue.

Mr Ridley told MPs that ministers could not express a view on the inspector's recommendations on Stansted and the development of a fifth terminal at Heathrow Airport because of its "political role".

There is no provision in the planning acts for Parliament to play any role determining planning appeals.

By holding a debate on a substantive motion and voting on it, this House could be held to be seriously prejudicing the proper exercise of our quasi-judicial function of determining the planning applications," said Mr Ridley.

If there had been a vote on the issue itself, rather than on the technical motion facing MPs for the adjournment of the House, and the Commons voted to reject the inspector's recommendations, and if ministers then approved the expansion of Stansted, they would be accused of disregarding the will of the House.

But if they rejected the recommendations simply because that was the will of the House, rather than on the merits of the case, they would lay themselves open to challenge in the High Court," said Mr Ridley.

Mr Ridley did say however, that after Government decisions had been taken on the



Mr Haselhurst—accused Government of 'deception'

public inquiry report, the Commons would be given a further opportunity to debate it if wished, and to vote on the Government's airport policy.

But his insinuations seemed to do little to modify the crowded Conservative benches behind him.

Sir Humphrey Atkins (C. South Devon, Exeter) accused the Government of breaking many pledges given to his constituents that a fifth terminal would not be built at Heathrow.

"Hundreds of thousands of people believed and took comfort from these assurances and pledges given to them," he said. "Do not worry, the fifth terminal will not be built," I said during the last general election, as many of my colleagues did, too.

Mr Haselhurst said that there was a deep sense of injustice in his constituency about the Stansted saga. His constituents were in the same boat as the residents around Heathrow, who had received various Government pledges over the years.

Mr Haselhurst, whose Suffolk constituency includes Stansted, derided the British Airports Authority's claim that it had a great interest in the success of regional airports.

"Frankly, that has all the credibility of the wolf inviting the third little pig to come to the fair. Throughout this affair they have shown a ruthless and at times unsavoury determination to get their own way," he accused the British Airports Authority and the Gov-

ernment of working hand in glove.

Stansted could play a limited part in dealing with increased demand for air traffic in the South-east.

For the Opposition, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody accused Mr Ridley of trying to take decisions by the back door.

The Government had created an atmosphere of distrust, and Mrs Dunwoody demanded: "Why is it that there has been such virulence in the North about the suggestion that Stansted should go ahead?"

It was because the North had no faith that the Government would consider "either the public expenditure effects of such an enormous injection of capital in the South-east, or the loss of jobs and the inability to attract new industries to Manchester."

Labour did not welcome the idea that there should be a fifth terminal at Heathrow, said Mrs Dunwoody. It would take 15 years to build and therefore not solve the existing problems of Heathrow.

Expansion of Heathrow would create extra jobs. But similar expansion in Manchester would create equal numbers of jobs; would create the opportunity for many businesses to come into the area; and would allow Manchester to act as a hub airport for many other regions.

Mr Alf Morris (Lab. Manchester, Wythenshawe), whose constituency includes Manchester Airport, said the development of Stansted would be a "crime against the North."

It mocked and derided the over-lengthening queue of the region. Manchester Airport should be expanded to provide more jobs.

## Jenkin attacks Tories calling for public works programmes

By James Naughtie  
CONSERVATIVE advocates of new public works programmes to encourage job creation were attacked last night by Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary.

Mr Jenkin dismissed those Tories arguing for extra expenditure on infrastructure — roads, bridges, housing and sewerage, for example — saying their plans would mean higher taxation.

He gave a strong defence of current spending plans and said, in a speech to constituents, that those who wanted extra spending on capital investment had to explain how public borrowing could be increased without putting new pressure on interest rates.

"One of the reasons for the present instability is that the markets are asking if we are not borrowing and spending too much already," he said.

He said that the Government was already spending enough on housing and roads and said: "Spending still more on the public infrastructure would mean increased borrowing or taxation or both."

Mr Jenkin went on: "But personal taxation or both Mr Jenkin. It starts today at around one quarter of average earnings — far lower than it did 20 years ago, and far lower than in our competitor countries. To raise tax thresholds is a top priority."

He said public and private investment last year was at an all-time high, about £55 billion. "More public spending would put that achievement at risk," he said.

In his speech, Mr Jenkin clearly took the position favoured by the Prime Minister in putting tax incentives above public spending programmes as a priority in the Budget on March 19. Senior Ministers close to Mrs Thatcher are now mounting a strong counter-offensive against backbenchers, including Mr Edward Heath, who have argued that further increases in tax thresholds should take second place to spending on urgent public works programmes.

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Mr Jenkin — extra expenditure on infrastructure "would mean higher taxation"

## MPs seek access to 'Crown Jewels'

By Richard Norton-Taylor  
Some members of the Commons foreign affairs and defence committees are concerned about the Government's refusal to allow them to see the Ministry of Defence document, called the "Crown Jewels," which gives a detailed account of the events leading up to the sinking of the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, during the Falklands conflict.

After learning that the full document has been produced in evidence by the prosecution in secret session in the Clive Ponting trial in progress at the Old Bailey, they plan to raise the matter with their colleagues on the committees.

The foreign affairs committee is conducting an inquiry into the Belgrano affair. When the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, gave evidence to the committee in November he said that the Crown Jewels contained information "which the Prime Minister did not want to be in the public domain."

But he added: "It also revealed to me that there were inaccuracies in the statement made to the House of Commons about the direction of, and attack on, the Exiguus."

The Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, told the Commons last week that the Crown Jewels contain intelligence information.

MPs on the committees are expressing concern that they are not being allowed to see the document even with the assurances that were given by lawyers and the vetted jury in the Ponting case.

Mr Ian Mikardo, a Labour member of the foreign affairs committee, said yesterday: "I can see no reason why the Crown Jewels could not be made available to committee members on the same basis."

Mr George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, in a parliamentary question asked the Attorney-General yesterday if he intended to prosecute Lord Lewin, the former Chief of Defence Staff under the Official Secrets Act.

Mr Foulkes said that in an interview, extracts of which were published in the Guardian last Monday, Lord Lewin had disclosed that a naval system which could pinpoint ships at a distance of up to 80 miles was used by a submarine in the Falklands war. "In contrast to other cases I can think of, sensitive information was disclosed in this case," he said.

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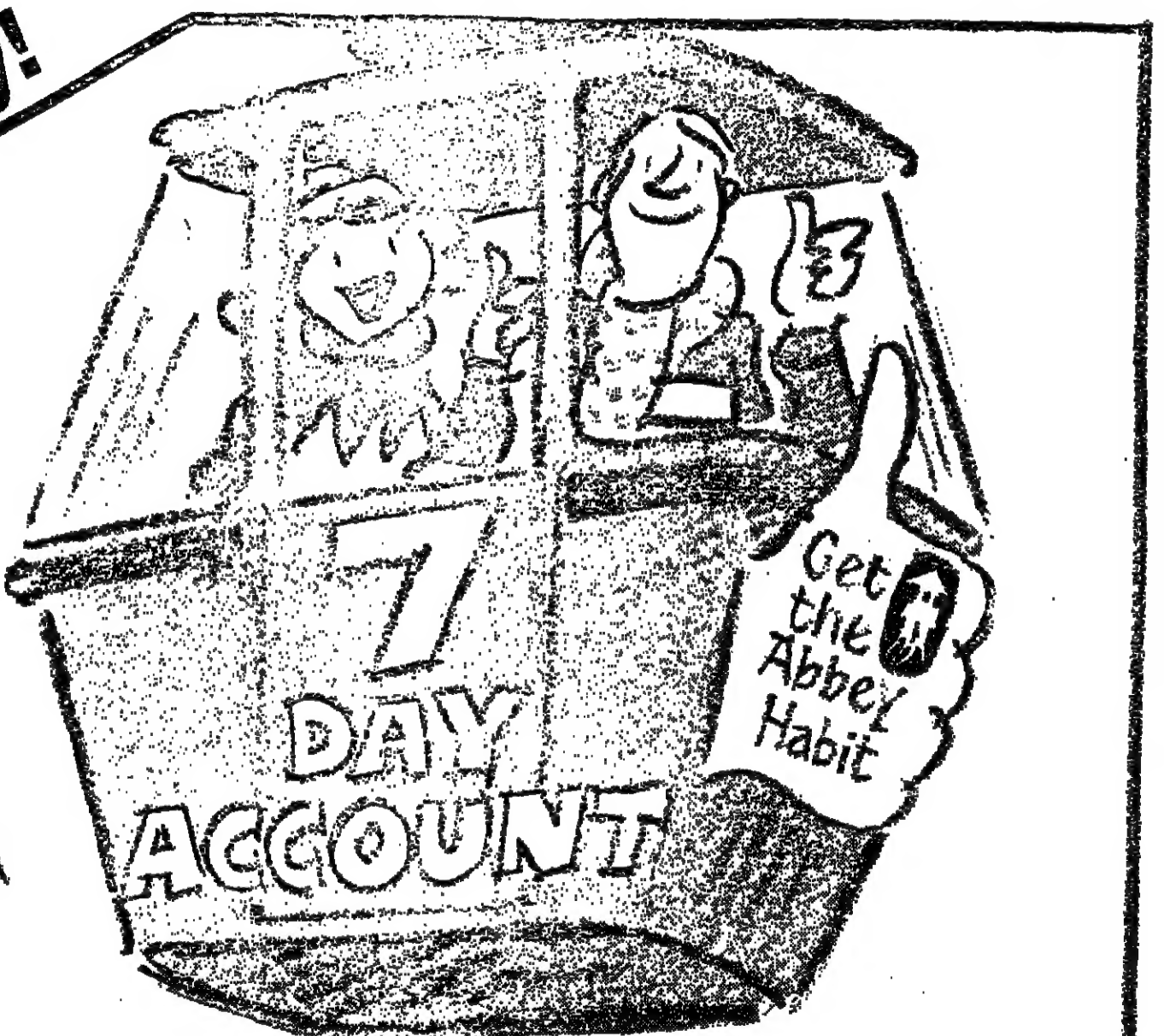
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## UK-Irish parliamentary council—Alliance plan

By Colin Brown  
A UK-IRISH parliamentary council is likely to be included among the proposals by the joint SDP-Liberal Commission on Ulster, which will be debated by the two parties in the autumn.

The idea for a council was raised by Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, during a visit to Dublin and Northern Ireland this month. He said that it should be able to discuss cross-border security, policy and other matters of common interest.

Dr Owen and the Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, are hoping that the commission will enable the two parties to unite behind a common policy when it is completed.

on Ulster for a general election manifesto.

However, Liberal activists have disowned the commission for being unrepresentative. They have strongly criticised it on the grounds that it does not reflect Liberal aspirations for a united Ireland.

The commission report, which is due to be debated at this year's Liberal Assembly, is unlikely to win general Liberal support and could therefore lead to a damaging policy difference with the SDP.

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page 14



## BBC's changes put Wogan to the fore

By Dennis Barker  
BBC's current affairs programme Panorama is being shifted from its peak-time Monday evening slot to 8.10 pm after 30 years, the BBC controller, Mr Michael Grade, announced yesterday.

From the middle of next month the programme will be shown after the Nine O'clock News to give it more flexibility, according to the BBC.

Panorama's editor, Mr Peter Ibbotson, said he welcomed the move. "In the past Panorama has been rather restricted by having to finish to make way for the Nine O'clock News. We will now be able to have longer specials when issues of the day demand," he said.

Other programme changes which the BBC hopes will help it in the ratings war with ITV include live chat programmes chaired by Terry Wogan on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week, and East Enders, the new soap opera rival to Coronation Street which will be shown on Tuesdays, Thursdays, with a one-hour omnibus edition on Sundays.

Mr Grade said yesterday that the Terry Wogan shows would bring "a much-needed element of surprise and unpredictability to BBC television," although Mr Wogan himself said that the format would take at least a year to settle down into familiarity and spontaneity.

Two popular series, Last of the Summer Wine and Are You Being Served? will be featured once more before being put out to grass. The arts programme Omnibus will go out on Friday instead of Sunday evenings from April, to avoid clashing with ITV's South Bank Show.

Mr Grade is also altering the weather. He said the forecast would cease to appear as "Play school weather," with clouds being stuck on by hand to charis, and would become "computer weather," with direct links to the Met Office giving an analysis of rainfall and temperatures and predictions 33 hours ahead.

## Monopolies move over TV listings

By Dennis Barker  
The Radio Times and TV Times policy of restricting programme information provided to other publications is to be referred to the Monopolies Commission, it was announced yesterday. Neither magazine has given the undertakings asked for by the Office of Fair Trading to allow other publications to print more programme information, but had been refused.

The Office of Fair Trading report pointed out that other publishers had offered to pay copyright fees for permission to print more programme information, but had been refused.

It was the OFT's view that the attitude of the Radio Times and TV Times amounted to an anti-competitive practice.

The BBC and ITP have the copyright in their programme schedules and have often acted to restrict the amount of programme information other publications can give.

Last Friday, the Standard, the London evening newspaper, published a list of the following Sunday programmes as well as the usual Friday and Saturday's, but promised not to repeat this after being approached by the BBC.

## With the reinstatement of sacked miners still to be resolved Malcolm Pitners examines the issue—and visits a Yorkshire pit—while Peter Hetherington reports on North Derbyshire's policy

SINCE the miners' strike began last March 630 men have been sacked by the National Coal Board and so far 38 have been reinstated while seven are working on a "daily basis" at a north-eastern pit.

And if Mr Ian McGregor, the board chairman, is taken at his word sacked miners will only be reinstated over his dead body.

In fact, area managements who made decisions on many of the dismissals are adopting a flexible approach that suggests a compromise could be reached with the National Union of Mineworkers on the issue.

Some men were sacked for alleged assaults on working miners, although the NCB in London insists that in such cases corroboration of the attacks has been obtained.

The board said yesterday that dismissals fell into four categories: thefts on coal board property, vandalism, assaults on employees, and breaches of the Mines and Quarries Act.

In normal working circumstances a breach of the Act could be taking cigarettes or matches down a pit. In such circumstances, it is thought unlikely that men would be dismissed for fighting, except in exceptional circumstances.

Main areas, on board figures, where dismissals have taken place are: Yorkshire 170 men sacked; Scotland 140; North-east more than 100; North Derbyshire 85 (38 sacked men have been reinstated); Kent 40; Nottinghamshire 21; South Wales 17; Western Area nine; Warwickshire two.

The board in London said yesterday that it did not have precise listings of what a particular man had been dismissed for. Nor had it issued any central directive to area management on dismissals.

A board spokesman said: "It is a matter for area management. The attitude, I guess, is that the board would have to be satisfied on the evidence that a person had committed an offence." It does not follow, according to the board, that people found guilty of offences by the courts would be dismissed.

But miners point out that they have to prove their own case in front of a colliery manager or area management. They allege that dismissals for "coal picking" have been used to put them



Flashback to a violent summer at Orgreave colliery plant that led to arrests and the risk of sacking.

Picture by Don McPhee

## All back or none back Grimethorpe vows

under pressure to return to work.

The allegation is that miners dismissed in such circumstances have been told they can be reinstated if they end their strike.

There are going to be many local problems over sacking and some miners will not return to work if their workmates remain dismissed, whatever national agreement may be reached. Many argue that as long as a miner can prove he has done

nothing "morally wrong" then he should be reinstated. That would cover most men who had been sacked, or so the strikers maintain.

Yorkshire miners at Grimethorpe colliery discussed the issue yesterday in a calm matter of fact way.

They maintained that they will not return without all those who have been fighting for the miners' cause, and they include some sacked for "coal picking."

Mr Jim Sellers, a Grimethorpe miner, said that people who had lost their jobs could in no circumstances be deserted.

Another, Mr Brian Prince, said: "We all came out together and we'll go back together otherwise we will not go at all."

They are more reticent about the outcome for men convicted of more serious offences than coal picking, seeming to take the view that if a miner has been on

official NUM duties, he should have the full backing of the men at a local colliery.

One miner with 30 years in the industry said: "If a man is given a court sentence he can deal with it. If he is dismissed it is simply a life sentence for him."

Patrick Wintour, adds: The use of unsuitable vehicles and routes to take coal and oil into Didcot power station may have contributed to the death of two drivers

and serious injuries to two others, a power station workers' union official claimed yesterday.

Mr Ian Keys, the General and Municipal Workers' Union Reading district official, said that many of the oil tankers being used to take oil from the Thames estuary to Didcot were unsuitable and dangerous.

About 300 oil tankers are driving from the Tilbury area to Didcot along the M4 every day. One tanker driver was killed at the weekend when his lorry went off the road at junction 11 of the M4. A second tanker driver was seriously hurt yesterday when his tanker jack-knifed on the M4, closing the west-bound carriageway.

Mr Keys said that coal lorries travelling south from the Leicestershire colliery have been involved in two accidents, with a van driver being killed near Banbury when his van collided with a coal lorry and another lorry driver splashing off a river bridge near Kingston Bagpuize. The lorries were driving along roads which had never been built for such heavy traffic.

## QC defends aggressive pit picketing

Working miners crossing picket lines could not expect to be treated like "elderly ladies on their way to take tea," a QC told the High Court yesterday.

Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, for the South Wales area NUM, was contesting a move by working miners to ban mass picketing as unlawful intimidation.

He said the law gave a clear right to meet, demonstrate and "look the bear in the face" by showing strike-breakers what they thought of them.

Twenty working miners are seeking an injunction against the area union, the national NUM, and senior union leaders including the NUM president, Mr Arthur

Scargill, to outlaw mass picketing. Mr Justice Scott suggested working miners were vulnerable to intimidation.

Mr Scrivener replied: "They are not elderly ladies on their way to take tea, on whom strange language might have the effect of putting them in fear."

He said the police restricted pickets' numbers at colliery gates to six, cordoning off elsewhere others who wanted to demonstrate in support.

The word "scab" was not a threat of violence, he said. The union and its officials had said they were not in favour of violence.

Mr Scrivener suggested that police would protect working miners but the

judge said the police were only concerned with the criminal law, not with protecting individuals' private rights.

Counsel told the judge: "If you grant the injunction you will be helping, not intentionally, of course, to break the strike."

Mr Scrivener said he had evidence that a working miner, who claimed that he was being intimidated by pickets, had been seen in a pub offering wads of bank notes to strikers if they went back to work.

"It is very difficult to think that a man like that could be easily intimidated," he added.

The hearing continues today.

## Open University forced to cut TV programmes by quarter this year



Graduates all: Chief Petty Officer Danny Godfrey (left), Ms Jo Davies, and Mr Neil Ching Chan, three of this year's Open University graduates. Picture by Kenneth Saunders

By Andrew Mearns, Education Staff

Dr John Horlock, the Vice-Chancellor of the Open University, said yesterday that it is reducing transmissions of television programmes used on its courses by 25 per cent this year and it may well halve its television programme production in 1986.

The university is still waiting to hear what its government grant will be for 1985, although its financial year began this month.

Indications are that it will be limited to £59.1 million, cut in real terms which the university calculates will bring

the total cut over three years to £13.2 million.

Dr Horlock said that the university faced another formidable year in 1986 if the grant remained at the level of £58.2 million already outlined by the Government.

He went on: "There will then be major academic damage done to the institution. There is no doubt of that."

Yesterday 5,638 students graduated bringing the total to more than 65,000 since students were first admitted in 1971.

One of them was Chief Petty Officer Danny Godfrey, aged 40, who did much of his study

ing at sea in the nuclear-powered submarine HMS Dreadnought.

During spells at sea he did his academic work, reading pure and applied mathematics, statistics, computers and science, in a makeshift study on the pipework beneath the engine room.

Mr Godfrey, from Sheerness, Kent, is due to retire from the Royal Navy in July after 24 years' service, including nearly 10 with Dreadnought. He has applied for a place at Nottingham University to take a graduate teaching certificate with the aim of becoming a mathematics teacher.

## Zip strike ends after ultimatum

By Michael Morris  
Workers at a Japanese-owned zip fastener manufacturing company, in Cheshire, have voted to end their four-week strike over a pay claim after being threatened with dismissal if they failed to return to work today.

Union officials recommended acceptance of a revised pay offer by YKK Fasteners in Runcorn, which had been

strike-free for nearly 10 years. After a meeting of the mainly female 260-strong workforce yesterday Mr Chris Zotti, the works convenor of the Transport & General Workers' Union, complained of duress from the company. But he said the latest offer of 8.5 per cent, with extras in the form of consolidated bonuses, was sensible.

The company, which originally offered a 5.5 per cent increase, also promised to consolidate Christmas and summer bonuses, with future bonuses linked to profits.

## Ballot fund critics 'hypocrites'

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

The General Secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Mr Gavin Laird, has attacked TUC critics of his union's decision to accept public funds for postal ballot.

Writing in the union's journal, he describes criticism from unions which accept government money for educational purposes as "the lowest form of hypocrisy."

The AUEW, and other unions which accept ballot funds, face disciplinary action by the TUC general council and possible suspension from the movement.

But Mr Laird, whose members authorised the decision by a 12 to one majority in a postal ballot, says: "I cannot believe, notwithstanding the anti-AUEW prejudice of some other unions, that the TUC general council would be stupid enough to discipline our union for carrying out a decision of our members arrived at in strict conformity with our rules."

Mr Laird writes: "I find it both sad and offensive that general secretaries of major unions make statements at the general council of the TUC attacking our union and our executive council decision to consult our members on this crucial issue, particularly when those unions and many others not only do not operate a postal ballot system, but do not elect their full-time officials by any system."

The method that they adopt is appointment.

"Never at any time publicly have any of our union's current leadership, or indeed past executive council members, commented upon the failure of other unions to elect officials."

Sadly, within the TUC there appears to be a body of opinion who are so afraid of our democratic process that they want to use the union as a scapegoat."

## Sea dumping omissions in bill alarm Greenpeace

By Paul Brown

The Government is asking Greenpeace to trust civil servants over the dumping of radioactive and toxic waste at sea under the new Food and Environmental Protection Bill.

Mr Henry Brown, who is responsible for dumping, at sea, regulations for the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food said that some safeguards asked for by Greenpeace have been left out of the bill for the sake of brevity.

Greenpeace now say that their fears over the bill have increased.

One of the safeguards Greenpeace wanted was a continuing reference to Britain's adherence to the London and Oslo convention that safeguard international waters from dumping.

The conventions are mentioned in the Dumping at Sea Act, which the bill is designed to replace. Greenpeace fears that the new bill would allow a future government to ignore the conventions if it chose.

In an exchange of letters Mr Brown concedes that the bill makes no provisions for recording quantities of materials dumped or incinerated at sea. He says that the Govern-

ment could impose a power to report quantities, but Greenpeace says the bill should be amended to make such reporting automatic.

The bill also gives ministers the power to sanction dumping without a licence. Mr Brown says this is intended to exclude operational discharges from ships, deploying of fishing gear and second-hand instruments, use of approved oil dispersants and burials at sea. Consultations about such exemptions will take place after the bill becomes law, he adds.

Mr Peter Wilkinson, director of Greenpeace, said: "It is a clear attempt to sidestep opposition to dumping and allow the use of the sea as a convenient rubbish-tip."

On another issue the Government is reconsidering the possibility of giving compensation to people who cannot sell their produce of fish as a result of contamination.

A spokesman for the ministry said that the bill had already been amended in the House of Lords, and had yet to go to the House of Commons. "Many MPs with interests in environmental matters will no doubt seek further amendments. We will be sympathetic to proposed improvements," he said.

## MP regrets Dallas 'joke'

The Conservative MP, Mr Jonathan Aitken apologised in court yesterday for a joke that "misfired" and brought a libel action against him.

Mr Aitken, the MP for Thanet South denied that his "spoof" magazine article suggesting a Thane version of Dallas had implied that one of his constituents was an adulterous alcoholic.

When he wrote that a fellow Conservative, Mrs Hazel Pinder-White, "could play Sue Ellen beautifully," it was meant as a joke, Mr Aitken told Mr Justice Causfield.

"It was meant to mean that

Hazel is nice-looking, she's a bit of an actress, and she can play the part beautifully, that's all," he said.

Mrs Pinder-White, of Broadstairs, Kent, is claiming damages against Mr Aitken and the monthly East Kent Critic, which published his article in February 1981.

Counsel for Mr Aitken and the magazine, Mr Patrick Milmo told the jury yesterday that the article was a "bit of micky-taking" of Mrs Pinder-White's husband after a flattering portrait of him in another local newspaper.

The hearing continues today.

## Hard line area that pledges fairness

A LEAD in the reinstatement of sacked miners has come, significantly enough, from an area management which seven weeks ago took the lead in a successful back-to-work drive.

As a result nearly three-quarters of North Derbyshire's 10,000 miners have deserted the strike.

The coalfield experienced some of the ugliest incidents of the dispute as the National Coal Board used reinforced "battle buses" to ferry miners through picket lines.

Arrests mounted and 122 miners were sacked by the board for various offences. The National Union of Mineworkers accused the North Derbyshire area of widespread victimisation.

But 35 miners have now been reinstated and the area director, Mr Ken Moses, has said he will consider all cases.

Of the 35, 23 were sacked for "minor thefts" ranging from stealing coal valued at £1.17. Four were dismissed in June for reported arson at a pit; four staged a strike in a colliery lamproom and four were convicted of picket line offences. Those charged with arson were subsequently cleared by the courts.

Mr Brian Barnston, the area industrial relations director, thumping through a file containing more re-employment applications—14 so far this week—said there would be no concession to those convicted of violence.

He went on: "We try to give everyone the same consideration. There is nothing to stop anyone applying for their jobs back in future but we are adamant that we need to stamp out violence."

So far, Mr Barnston has rejected 24 applications.

Mr Moses's letters to managers and workers declare his determination that industrial relations in his area will be firm and fair.

## Sizewell's risk margin 'misleading'

By Roger Milne

The risk of developing cancer from exposure to low level doses of radiation from nuclear plants is 15 to 20 times greater than official safety and health watchdogs admit, a leading opponent of the plan to build a second nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast claimed yesterday.

Mr Graham Searle told the Sizewell B hearing, which yesterday reached its 319th day, that the cluster of cancer cases reported from around the existing Sizewell A Magnox station—and the Sellafield reprocessing plant were the "tip of an iceberg."

Mr Searle, who was making the closing submission for the East Anglian-based Stop Sizewell B Association, attacked the safety record of the nuclear industry and the response of its safety watchdogs, the Health Safety Commission and the National Radiological Protection Board.

"The safety margins for radioactive discharges and exposure rates under which the nuclear industry now operates are neither adequate nor safe," he said.

Mr Searle's criticisms of the industry and its watchdogs were based on evidence submitted to the inquiry on the results of research amongst atomic bomb survivors, American nuclear workers and the significance of reported cancer cases amongst the workforce at Sellafield, Cumbria and Sizewell A.

Mr Searle criticised the board's chief medical adviser, Dr John Bonnell, for failing to respond to the discovery of the cluster of cancer cases in Suffolk, which should have acted as an alarm bell.

Later the South of Scotland Electricity Board told the hearing that a "go-ahead" for Sizewell B would be the death sentence for British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactors.

The inquiry continues.

# THE GUARDIAN

14th February 1985

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## Beirut's factions settle rift as Jerusalem hastens pullout

# Syria forces agreement to avert south Lebanon war

From Ian Black in Jerusalem, and agencies

Israeli army engineers yesterday completed the destruction of underground bunkers once used by the PLO in south Lebanon as the Government in Jerusalem warned that it will hold Lebanon and Syria responsible for any bloodshed in the area after it is evacuated next month.

The Foreign Ministry's director-general, Mr David Kimche, told a group of some 40 foreign ambassadors that Israel had seen no signs of readiness from Beirut or Damascus to make security arrangements after the Israeli pullback, by deploying either the Lebanese army or United Nations troops.

The Israeli Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, was also quoted yesterday as saying that massacres could occur in southern Lebanon after the withdrawal. In an interview with the New York Times he

said that his concern was that civil strife might resume among Druse, Palestinians, and Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims in the region.

The blame for such violence would lie with the Syrian and Lebanese governments for failing to negotiate an arrangement with Israel allowing UN forces to replace Israeli troops.

"We would like to prevent havoc and massacres in the area that will be vacated by us. We have warned the Lebanese government and the UN. But Beirut, Lebanon, and Syrian officials announced new agreements yesterday to cope with Israel's withdrawal and to curb a recurrence of civil war."

The Lebanese Prime Minister, Mr Rashid Karami, said that agreements, he implemented "immediately," he spoke shortly before the left Damascus for Beirut at the end of a 24-hour visit during which he met Syria's President Hafez Assad and the Vice-President, Mr Abdul-Halim Khaddam.

Mr Karami said one of the agreements called for new moves to deploy the Lebanese

army on Lebanon's coastal highway above south Lebanon, "in preparation for army to enter the South after Israel starts its evacuation stages."

An official spokesman in Jerusalem quoted Mr Kimche as saying that with only 24 weeks to go before the completion of the first stage of the three-phase withdrawal, Israel was concerned that Beirut and Damascus had done nothing to coordinate the withdrawal.

The officials said that they were particularly concerned that Syria was blocking the expansion of United Nations peacekeeping forces in south Lebanon to guard Palestinian refugee camps because of opposition in Damascus to Mr Yasser Arafat's wing of the PLO.

Mr Kimche's meeting with the ambassadors and the extensive publicity given to it was seen by observers here as the start of a campaign to make it clear that whatever happens after February 18 in south Lebanon, it will not be said to be Israel's fault.

Officials here are said to recall the lesson of the Sabra and Chatila massacre of September, 1982, when Israel was widely blamed for the killings of Palestinian civilians by its Christian Phalangist allies.

The Israeli army's Quarter-Master General, meanwhile told reporters yesterday that most of the army's heavy equipment had already been removed from the Sidon area and that the redeployment would be completed by February 18 at a cost of \$60 million.

Caves, bunkers, and underground tunnels used by Palestinian guerrillas in the Zahrani area were blown up, military sources said, to prevent them from being used again by the PLO.

In Damascus, Vice-President Khaddam, who has played a key role in Syrian mediation efforts in Lebanon, said last night that the security agreements reached with Beirut were "a good step in the right direction" and that Syria would continue to back the Lebanese Government's efforts to end almost 10 years of civil strife.

Israel had suggested that UN troops be deployed in Sidon once the occupation force pulls back and that militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army patrol the border.

But Lebanon wants UN forces deployed along the border, where their presence was called for in a 1978 UN Security Council resolution after a previous Israeli invasion.

escalating violence it should jealously the ANC and start negotiating with it.

Mrs Suzman, who is one of the few white South Africans to have visited Mr Mandela in jail, called on the Government to respond positively to Mr Mandela's offer.

Pretoria's position, however, remains that the ANC should first abandon violence and only when it has done so unequivocally will the authorities be willing to negotiate with it.

A spokesman for President P. W. Botha's office said yesterday: "We will not speak to the ANC before it abandons violence, before there is a proof over a period that it has abandoned violence."

In a statement last month, President Botha forbade National Party MPs to hold

## Tourists head for remote monastery

From Kathryn Davies in St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai

TWO THOUSANDS of foreign tourists on Middle East package tours are about to disturb the peace of the 17 Greek Orthodox monks attempting a life of prayer and contemplation in this remote desert monastery.

The Egyptian Government, anxious to encourage tourism in the Sinai Peninsula, has told the fathers that they are to receive 1,000 French visitors at a time on consecutive Sundays for three months, even though the monastery is normally closed to outsiders at weekends.

This is the latest intrusion into the monastic existence, which begins every day at 4 am and has five-and-a-half hours devoted solely to prayer. Until the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, St Catherine's, which is dedicated to the Christian martyr born in Alexandria in 294 AD, was sealed from the outside world by its inaccessibility. Apparently, it did not even appear on the maps of the generals of Egypt or Israel, and its existence came as a surprise to the Israelis

when they occupied Sinai. Subsequently, Israeli tourists enthusiastically trekked across the desert in the jeep to see for the first time the biblical site where Moses lived for 40 years. According to the Old Testament, it was there that God revealed himself in the miracle of the Burning Bush to order Moses to deliver the children of Israel to the promised land of Canaan. What is said to be the Bush is now surrounded by a high wall. St Catherine's was constructed by Emperor Justinian in the sixth century as a vast monastic fortress with such highly militaristic features as a tunnel above the gate of the main wall through which boiling oil could be poured on would-be assailants.

The presence of a small eleventh century mosque within the monastery walls is a graphic illustration of the lengths to which the monks occasionally had to go to placate the Arab conquerors who swept the region. Today the 60 local Bedouin who act as monastery servants pray facing Mecca as their Christian employers kneel in the Christian basilica.

But neither stout walls nor boiling oil can keep off 20th century invaders. When the Egyptians recovered Sinai as a result of the 1979 peace treaty with Israel, they constructed roads linking St Catherine's to the secular world, and built a nearby airport to take small civilian aircraft. As a result, the monks have found themselves a tourist attraction and have been forced to open their ancient doors to camera-toting visitors.



The Israeli Defence Minister, Mr Rabin, met President Reagan in the Oval Office (above) yesterday, announcing later that he believes the US will increase military aid to Israel next year to a total of \$1.5 billion

## Lawyers accuse Israelis of torturing Palestinian prisoners on West Bank

From Iain Guest in Geneva

The International Committee of the Red Cross.

The report takes the form of 20 separate sworn affidavits. Mr Niall Macdermot, the secretary general of the ICJ and a former British barrister, yesterday described the affidavits as convincing and said that none of the witnesses had known what was said by the others.

Al-Fara'a camp lies about 12 miles from Nabulus. It fell into Israeli hands after the war in 1967 and was reopened by the Israelis in the spring of 1982. According to the report, the camp has since played a key role in a deliberate policy by the Israeli occupation forces to intimidate young Palestinians and to discourage unrest.

After al-Fara'a was converted from a detention camp to an interrogation centre in January 1984, the report said, prisoners were subjected to "brutal physical and mental punishment." It said the Israelis used "isolation, often

hooded, frequent beating and deprivation of sleep and food," among other methods, to force confessions.

The report said some prisoners were refused medical care until they confessed and that others were beaten after talking with Red Cross representatives visiting the camp.

Al-Fara'a, a former British army camp has been operated by the Israelis since spring 1982.

The report states: "Detention at al-Fara'a should be understood, we believe, in the context of other measures aimed at controlling the West Bank population, such as curfews, house demolitions, and the withdrawal of basic services from whole neighbourhoods."

One 18-year-old construction worker said he was hooded, handcuffed, and forced to stand for two days in toilets before being interrogated. Another 15-year-old student

said: "They beat me with electricity cables and ordered me to turn round and round for a long time so that I got dizzy and nauseous."

A third student says that interrogators beat him around the genitals and extinguished cigarettes on his body.

The report seems likely to embarrass the Red Cross headquarters with its charges that prisoners at al-Fara'a were beaten up after complaining to Red Cross delegates.

Under the fourth Geneva convention, Red Cross delegates should have immediate access to all civilians under occupation. But Israel does not accept that the convention applies to the occupied territories. Under a 1978 compromise, Red Cross delegates are informed of all detentions on the West Bank within 12 days and allowed to make visits to camps of interrogation after 14 days.

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Another 15-year-old student

## Suzman says Nelson Mandela offered truce to Pretoria

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

The imprisoned African National Congress leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, has been a focal point in the new tricameral Parliament, with the opposition MP, Mrs Helen Suzman, calling for his release and the lifting of the ban on the ANC.

Speaking in the no-confidence debate, Mrs Suzman told Parliament of a truce offer made by Mr Mandela when he was interviewed last week by the British peer, Lord Bethel.

Mr Mandela, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotage more than 20 years ago, told Lord Bethel that the Government had forced the ANC to take up arms when it outlawed the movement, and that if it wished to bring an end to the

talks with ANC leaders as long as the ANC was committed to violence.

Careful analysis has shown that contrary to popular opinion, Mr Mandela, may be quoted lawfully in South Africa, provided care is taken not to contravene the Prisons Act and those sections of the Unlawful Organisations Act incorporated into the new Internal Security Act.

Research has shown that Mr Mandela is not included in any list under the omnibus Internal Security Act, and the presumed total prohibition on quoting him does not exist in law.

The Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday ordered the South African Medical and Dental Council to hold an inquiry into the conduct of two of the doctors who treated the black con-

sciousness leader, Steve Biko, before his death in September, 1977, from head injuries sustained in detention.

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Mr Justice W



Thach said a Vietnamese foreign minister could be the center of discussions among the parties involved. The proposals link the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops with the elimination of the military and political force of the seceded Khmer Rouge, responsible for the country's atrocities during the war.

Peter de Cuellar, UN secretary general, said the UN would accompany the talks. He said that his country would lead the talks with officials on both sides to encourage them to continue.

—Reuters.

**IT'S LIKE HAVING EVERY EIGHTH GALLON FREE.**



'Country of misery and terror benefits no one'

## Polish lawyer hints Kremlin involved in priest's murder

Torun: The possibility that the Soviet Union was involved in the plot to murder the pro-Solidarity priest, Fr Jerzy Popieluszko, was hinted at yesterday by a lawyer at the trial of four security police accused in his killing.

Mr Jan Olszewski, speaking as an auxiliary prosecutor on behalf of Fr Popieluszko's family, told the Torun court: "I do not see any advantage for any group or section in Poland in turning it into a country of misery, despair and terror."

The packed court listened in silence as Mr Olszewski, who did not name the Soviet Union, added: "The weakness of one country is the strength of another. In Poland, the knowledge of who profits from a weak Poland is known to every schoolchild who is properly taught his history... I dare not think further."

Court sources said there was no doubt that he was referring to the Soviet Union.

Mr Olszewski, a former legal adviser to Solidarity, looked directly at the accused and said: "I shudder even to think that these people, who were born in this country, could have acted with the full awareness of that."

It was the first open suggestion during the trial of Soviet implication.

The link was hinted at earlier by Solidarity sources after the authorities said Communist hardliners plotted the attack. Fr Popieluszko was attacked by name in the Soviet press shortly before he died.

The prosecution on Tuesday asked the court to find Capt Grzegorz Pietrowski, Lt Leszek

THE Solidarity leader, Mr Lech Walesa, and other leaders of the banned union have called for a 15-minute national work stoppage on February 28 in protest against planned food price rises and a proposal to raise working hours. It was the first such call since an appeal for a go-slow in August 1983. — Reuter.

Pekala and Lt Waldemar Chmielewski guilty of the killing and to convict their Interior Ministry chief, Col Adam Petruszka, of instigating it.

The chief prosecutor, Mr Leszek Petruszka, sought the death sentence for Capt Pietrowski and 25-year prison terms for his co-accused. Both Mr Olszewski and Mr Edward Wende, Fr Popieluszko's former lawyer, protested against

an allegation by Mr Petruszka that the priest's political extremism was to blame for his killing.

"This goes beyond all permissible bounds," Mr Wende told the court. "Such an equation between victim and hangman has never been seen in any court anywhere before."

Mr Olszewski told the court: "No law exists which could permit equating the responsibility of those who rely on the word with those who use the noose and the club."

He said he believed the three junior officers were motivated merely by a desire to further their careers and added: "I don't see Petruszka as a fanatic of justice."

The 33-year-old captain organised a "mini-death squad" and they left so many traces of their involvement that there could be no doubt they felt that the murder had high level protection, he said.

Mr Olszewski said that a police badge dropped at the scene of the abduction was "a sign that would confirm to the people that the police were involved and would indicate to the police that it was the work of the underground. This body, this blood would inspire mutual terror." — Reuter.

## Genscher seeks common ground

From Derek Brown in Strasbourg

Warsaw Pact countries as well as Western European democracies could take part in "this summer's celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the West German Foreign Minister, Mr Genscher, suggested yesterday.

Mr Genscher told the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe here that the common identity of Europe did

a stimulus to the continuing European disarmament and security talks in Stockholm.

Mr Genscher, who holds the chairmanship this year of the Council of Europe's committee of ministers, strongly supported the 21-country body's role as a bridge between the EEC and the rest of Western Europe.

"The Council of Europe with its 21 member states and their 380 million inhabitants is the largest organ of European unity. With its commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, it provides evidence of the moral strength of the democracies of this continent. It is now starting to play its role in the process of European unification more actively than in the past."

Leader comment, page 12

not end at the Iron Curtain. "European cultural identity is grounded on the common cultural history of the countries of Europe. All European peoples have made outstanding contributions to our common culture."

He urged the Council of Europe, which embraces all Western countries from the Irish Republic to Turkey, and from Norway to Malta, to turn up its search for cultural cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe.

The German Foreign Minister later told reporters that Warsaw Pact countries were already "weighing up" the possibility of taking part in the Helsinki celebrations in August. He said he had been urged to support at Tuesday night's special meeting of foreign ministers for a Europe-wide celebration "at a political level."

What that level would be—ministerial or heads of government—would be decided later, but West German officials took the view that such a conference or celebration could be

This week's meeting provided substantial evidence to back the German ministers' claims. Sixteen foreign ministers and four high-level delegations attended the wide-ranging discussion, called by the German Presidency outside the normal twice-yearly schedule of council ministerial sessions. The talks roamed freely over "cold" problems, with East-West relations top of the agenda.

The council, founded in 1949 but lately quiescent, has high ambitions to raise its own political profile. Interest among non-EEC countries has quickened in recent months, especially among those which are also outside Nato. With the EEC about to expand to 12 members with the addition of Spain and Portugal, countries, such as Austria and Sweden, have discerned a useful role for the council in amplifying their own contribution to European and world debate.

## Army plans to test Star Wars weapon

From Michael White in Washington

The United States Army is planning to test, close to the Soviet Union, another element in its ground-based antiballistic missile programme which could make a version of the Stars Wars defence operational by the late 1990s — much earlier than generally supposed.

The aspects of the US Administration's Star Wars strategy — which involve the destruction of incoming missiles in space, or as they are fired, and have attracted most of the public attention — could take 10 years to evaluate.

But officials in Washington are pointing to the army project, which has received scant attention, as an integral feature of the Strategic Defence Initiative — or Star Wars — and one with cheaper and earlier potential.

A decision to deploy could

be made by 1990 if no new arms control agreement is reached meanwhile.

The army's programme surfaced last June when it was announced that a ground-based warhead had intercepted and destroyed another missile warhead in the atmosphere above the Pacific.

It is now being reported in Washington that contracts to design an integrated version of the system will be issued this year and work put in hand to reduce the non-nuclear interceptors from the 1,000 in last year's experiment to a militarily viable 100.

Donald Fields adds from Helsinki: The Finnish air force last night described a Soviet projectile that came down in Lapland in December 28 as a flying target not a cruise missile. This statement appeared to confirm the Soviet version of events.

## Allies at odds on policy

By Hella Pick

The Nato Allies, although agreed on broad goals at the 35-nation Stockholm Conference on Disarmament and Confidence-Building in Europe, are still at odds about details in the substance of the Western proposals.

They have not yet drafted a declaration reaffirming their commitment against the use of force although Nato is prepared for such a gesture provided it is part of a package including practical measures to reduce the risk of surprise attack or accidental war.

There may also be problems within the Alliance about the desirability of aiming for an interim agreement at Stockholm to mark the tenth anniversary of the Helsinki Declaration at the end of July.

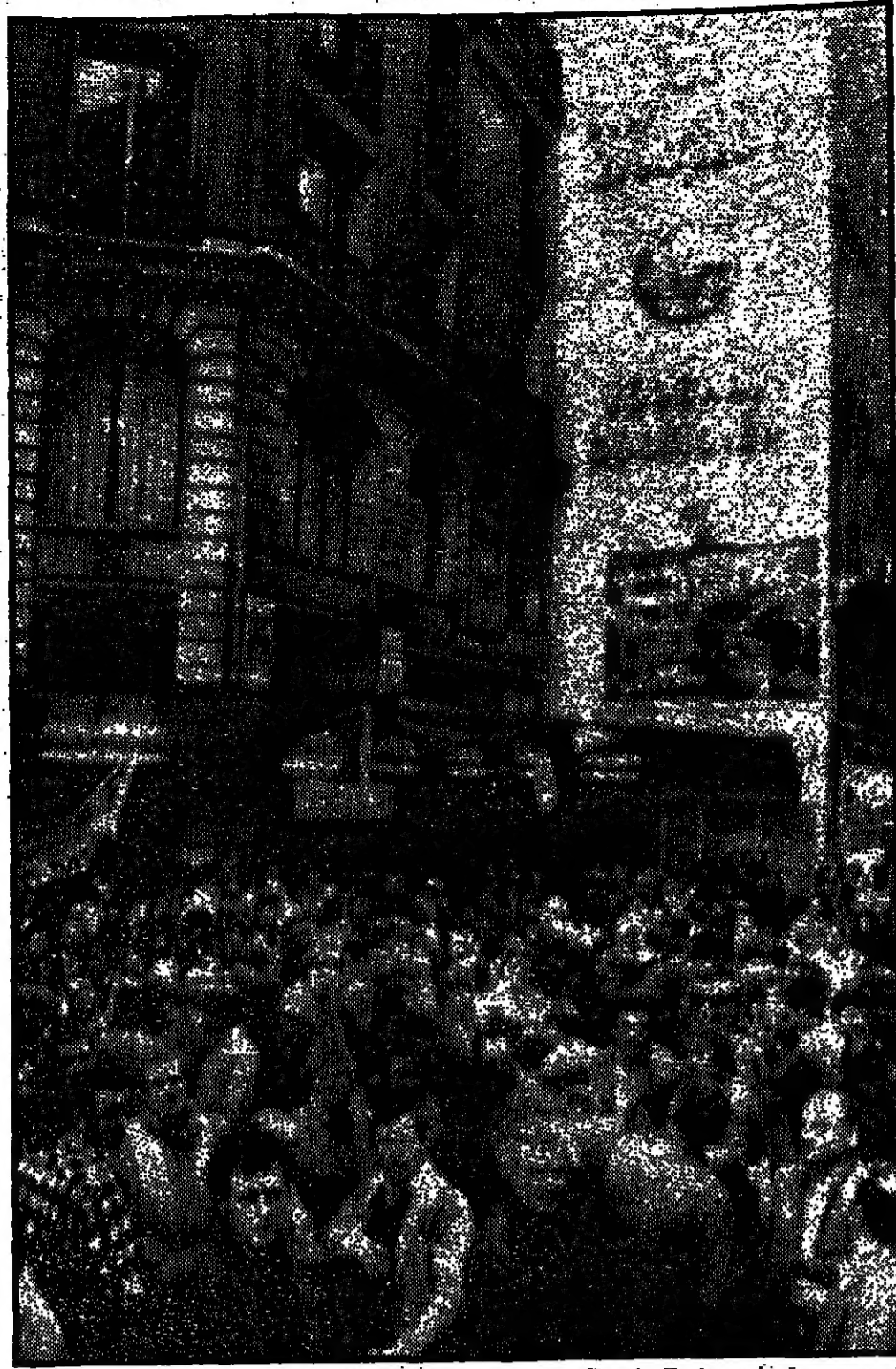
After the Geneva meeting between Mr George Shultz and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, the United States appears to have felt that visible progress in Stockholm could provide a useful political underpinning to the difficult US-Soviet arms control negotiations that will now begin. However, the West Europeans, including Britain, believe that the best tactic is to settle for the long haul, and maintain the original goal of an agreement next year in time for the resumption of the Helsinki review conference.

The Stockholm negotiations are an offspring of the last Helsinki review conference, which ended in 1983. Thirty-five countries, including all European countries, with the exception of Albania, the United States, and Canada, are taking part.

Against the background of improving East-West relations, Nato and the Warsaw Pact have begun to table detailed proposals in search of a negotiated package, capable of commanding the consensus, which the Helsinki process requires from its signatories.

The Soviet Union on Monday tabled a far-reaching nonaggression treaty. In turn, Nato yesterday gave details of the first of six proposals, this one involving an annual exchange of information on ground forces and land-based air forces within the area covered by the Stockholm conference, from the Urals in the Soviet Union to the Atlantic coast in Europe.

Nato is unanimous in rejecting the idea of a non-aggression treaty, arguing that this is out of the context of the Helsinki process, and in any case could never be a substitute for practical measures capable of reducing the risk of war.



Printers demonstrate outside the Le Monde newspaper office in Paris yesterday as part of a 24-hour strike. The printers want a bonus payment, known as the '15th month', which has been halved in management attempts to avoid bankruptcy. Le Monde has debts totalling \$8.2 million.

## Farm prices freeze sought as EEC cash shortage bites

From Derek Brown in Brussels

An effective freeze on farm prices was announced last night by the EEC Commission.

The clampdown is certain to produce consternation among farmers and national farm ministers, though the measures are too modest and have come too late to prevent the Community sliding into another financial crisis this year.

Overall, the Commission is suggesting an increase in prices paid to farmers of 0.1 per cent over last year. But the price proposals involve a reduction in some countries, including a 0.3 per cent cut for British farmers.

All the detailed price proposals have to be approved by the farm ministers before coming into effect in July, a ritual which in the past has featured acrimony. Farm organisations

too are expected to follow the traditional pattern of angry denunciation and cries of doom.

Already there have been protests from farm organisations and MEPs. The EEC farmers' umbrella body, Copa, said that a price freeze would have a "particularly detrimental effect, not only on farm revenue, but on employment as well."

Labour MEPs claimed that the commission's proposal to abolish beef subsidies would add 8p a lb to shop prices. The Conservative group leader in the European Parliament, Sir Henry Plumb (a former chairman of the National Farmers' Union) also criticised the moves to abolish beef and lamb subsidies, but in general he welcomed the Commission's latest attempt to bring agricultural spending to heel.

"The price package attempts to reflect the difficult financial situation of the Community. Farmers of Europe cannot ex-

pect indefinitely in agricultural production at unrealistic prices for which there is no market," he said.

More than two-thirds of all EEC spending goes on the Common Agricultural Policy. The Commission estimates that farm costs for 1985 is now \$12 billion.

As farm costs inexorably rise, they increase the pressure on the Community's battered financial system. Having had to organise an emergency \$1.2 billion contribution of national governments to bail out the 1984 budget, the Community is facing another, similar crisis this year.

Extra contributions by the 10 member states are not due to come into effect until 1986. Britain and other countries want them brought forward to avoid another politically embarrassing deficit, but the move is being held up by the Community's main paymaster, Germany.

## Greens compromise on rotating MPs

From Anna Tomford in Bonn

The Green Party yesterday once more defied its own rules in favour of pragmatism and decided that MPs unwilling to give up their seats in mid-term will be exempt from the two-year rotation.

The compromise reached at a two-day meeting is the result of thinly-veiled threats by prominent MPs that they would leave the party and so endanger its parliamentary status if they were forced to vacate their seats for "replacements" (Nachrücker).

If two of the 27 Green MPs resign, the party would lose its parliamentary privileges and public funds.

The anti-rotation campaign has been led by Mrs Petra Kelly, whose role in founding the Green Party five years ago is uncontested, but who, in the view of many of her colleagues, has since overstepped the mark by seeking publicity.

In a letter to her colleagues—she was absent due to illness—Mrs Kelly criticised the rigid rotation rule, and said that she hoped the party

would make it "humiliating and politically possible" for her to serve the full four-year parliamentary term.

Those in favour of rotation believe it will ensure that new blood is regularly injected into ranks of the Greens.

The parliamentary party agreed that no pressure be put on Mrs Kelly and four or five other MPs who will stay on after the March rotation date. These include Mr Otto Schilly, the defence lawyer, who has been given permission by his constituency to keep his seat until he completes his task later this year as the Green's representative on the parliamentary committee investigating the Flick bribery scandal.

Similarly, Mr Roland Vogt, the party's MP on the parliamentary defence committee, will not rotate.

The Government said yesterday that there had been more than 60 bombings and arson attacks, causing 27 million of damage, since gaoled leftwing guerrillas began a hunger strike last month. Thirty Red Army Faction guerrillas began a fast on December 4, and 27 are still refusing food.

## Reagan's UN envoy quits politics

From Michael White in Washington

Mrs Joan Kirkpatrick's future in the second Reagan Administration finally ended yesterday when the retiring US ambassador to the UN emerged from her long-heralded meeting with the President and said she would be returning to academic life.

Mrs Kirkpatrick arrived at the White House for her 30-minute meeting armed with a prepared statement saying that she could serve Mr Reagan and her country best by speaking out clearly on foreign policy issues as a private citizen, perhaps even more so than in public life.

But reporters present sensed that, even at the last minute, Mr Reagan might just have managed to keep her in his government.

Given the writer of speculation that he would offer Mrs Kirkpatrick another post, the immediate inference was that, if anything was available, it was not sufficiently tempting for Mrs Kirkpatrick to say if an offer had been made.

The directorship of the US Agency for International Development was one post mentioned speculatively, but Mrs Kirkpatrick is unlikely to have been impressed by anything less than an important position at the State Department, the National Security Council, or a roving brief with direct access to Mr Reagan, unimpeded by State Department doves.

In her statement, which was followed by some testy exchanges, Mrs Kirkpatrick

professed her gratitude and continuing loyalty to the President.

She said: "It has been an extraordinary honour to speak for friends in that world forum (the UN). I believe that both the US and the UN are stronger today and I am proud of my contribution."

Mrs Kirkpatrick has behaved in recent months like someone genuinely torn between the satisfaction of a rounded public life with her family and her professorship at Georgetown University, Washington, and the exercise of political power.

Her unapologetic advocacy of American interests at the UN made this conservative, who made a heroine of muscular Republicanism, but had she stayed on she would, she said yesterday, have felt obliged to resign her chair at Georgetown—which has been waiting for her return for four years.

## Doctor 'protected police'

From Jane Rosen in New York

NEW YORK'S chief medical examiner has been accused of altering post-mortem reports and issuing misleading reports in an effort to cover up police brutality.

According to newspaper accounts, made in the New York Times, the examiner, Dr Elliot Gross, tried to shift responsibility for the deaths of at least half a dozen people who died while in police custody.

The New York Times made its allegations in a series of articles published this week. After reading them, Mayor Edward Koch appointed a team of eminent private lawyers to investigate. Dr Gross maintains his innocence and has taken leave of absence.

The best-known of the cases raised by the newspaper involved Mr Michael Stewart, a black man who was taken into custody on September 15, 1983, by white police officers who accused him of scribbling graffiti in a subway.

About an hour after his arrest, Mr Stewart was brought to a hospital, unconscious, hog-tied, and covered with bruises. He died 30 days later without regaining consciousness.

Dr Gross performed the post-mortem and reported that there was no evidence that physical injury had caused Mr Stewart's death. After an outcry by black leaders, Dr Gross modified the report but also took the unusual step of removing Mr Stewart's eyes which it is alleged, might have shown evidence of strangulation.

Mr Stewart's family is currently suing Dr Gross. A grand jury is considering charges against the police officers involved in the Stewart case.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pinochet critic 'resigns'

CHILE'S ambassador to the Organisation of American States — second secretary Monica Madariaga — is to leave her post only days after being elected president of the OAS's judicial and political affairs commission, writes Malcolm Cook.

Officially, Miss Madariaga has resigned, but her resignation, which will take effect tomorrow, comes after she criticised President Pinochet in a magazine interview published in Santiago. When asked in Washington if she had been obliged to resign, she replied, "I draw your own conclusions."

In the interview, Miss Madariaga said that the Government should set aside "massive" attitudes and sit down with the Opposition to lead the country.

### Belize assured

THE FOREIGN Minister of Belize, Mr Dean Barrow, said yesterday that he had been reassured of Britain's commitment to keep its troops in the country. He added that the Opposition's demand for guarantees there would be no premature withdrawal of the 1,800-man British garrison, thus deterring attacks by neighbouring Guatemala. — Reuter.

### Four killed

FOUR people were killed and six seriously injured when separatist guerrillas set off a landing under an ambulance carrying patients in Sri Lanka's eastern province last night, security officials said in Colombo. Last night, among those killed were a 16-month-old child and a hospital attendant. — Reuter.

### Name change

CHINA says it is disbanding the 1.2 million "barefoot doctors" sent out during the Cultural Revolution to administer health care to the 800 million peasants. The Deputy Health Minister, Mr Chen Minzhang, said those medical aides who had passed secondary medical examinations would in future be known as village doctors. — Reuter.

### Air attack

POLISARIO rebels in the Western Sahara shot down a plane taking part in the Paris-Dakar air and motorcade rally 10 days ago, killing two Belgians, the Belgian foreign minister said in Brussels yesterday. A spokesman said the plane disappeared in the region of Dakhla. — Reuter.

### Pirate attack

PIRATES boarded a US Navy ship, the USS Johnston, off the coast of Indonesia yesterday, tied up the captain and stole \$19,500. Navy officials said in Washington.

The ship was carrying jet fuel and diesel oil from Bahrain to the Strait of Malacca. — Reuter.

### First sight

ASTRONOMERS in Hawaii claim to have made the first infrared observations of Halley's Comet as it approaches the Earth on its 76-year solar orbit. The observations showed that the comet was eight miles wide, were made on December 21. — AP.

### Border breach

A 20-YEAR-OLD East German border guard escaped unhurt across the fortified frontier near Ludwigsdorf, Bavaria on Tuesday after escaping his fellow guard. West German police said yesterday. — Reuter.

### Gas blast

A SERVICE station attendant in Auckland, New Zealand, was seriously burned when a spark of static electricity from his wrist triggered a compressed natural gas tank. A council inspector said yesterday. — Reuter.

### Cuban discourse

AN ITALIAN Catholic magazine reported yesterday that the Cuban President, Fidel Castro, would soon meet the Archbishop of Havana, Jaime Ortega, to discuss a possible visit to Cuba by the Pope. — Reuter.

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## Tight fists and empty stomachs

Barring eleventh hour conversions the Government will today announce that it cannot afford to commit any extra funds to the World Bank's crash programme to put the economies of famine stricken African countries on to a sounder footing. The Washington based World Bank is trying to raise a very modest (in global terms) \$1 billion to improve agriculture and infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa. This is necessary to prevent the otherwise certain recurrence of bad harvests and famine in the poorest area of the world where, on the Bank's figures, over 60 per cent of the population could be living in absolute poverty by the year 2000. The Bank, which failed last year (because of US intransigence) to persuade the rich countries to increase their aid to developing countries generally, has called a meeting in Paris today of 20 potential donor countries because of the desperate needs of the sub-Saharan region. Some, like France, Italy, the Scandinavian countries and Saudi Arabia, have agreed to contribute. But even if, as mooted, the World Bank contributes some of its current profits the minimal \$1 billion — over three years — will be difficult to reach.

Britain's position is not only disgraceful morally, but politically and economically naive. The Government argues that while we fully support the ideals of the fund it is an unfortunate fact that because of fully stretched budgets, any aid for Africa would be at the expense of existing bilateral aid programmes in Africa and elsewhere. This may be true within the oppressive confines of the budget of the Overseas Development Administration, but certainly not of the Treasury, which only last year was prepared to put up \$200 million through the foreign aid budget for the stillborn attempt to expand the resources of the International Development Association, the arm of the Bank which lends to developing countries at cheap rates.

Even if Britain did not receive a penny piece in return there would be an overwhelming case — in sheer humanitarian terms — to donate the required \$150 million over three years to start an economic rehabilitation programme which would bear results when the fickle attention of the world's media has turned elsewhere. The tragic fact is that, thanks to the myopic morality of the West, Africa will now receive over 20 per cent less credit from IDA countries at a time when per capita incomes are declining and when it cannot get credit from elsewhere.

Morals apart, Britain has a vested political interest in helping a part of the world with which she has strong historical ties. As it happens, aid extended by the World Bank under the proposed facility is "tied" to economic policy reforms of the kind which the Government would like to see in order to open up African markets to more competition. In any case, in terms of procuring subsequent contracts, Britain is well known to receive a bigger slice of the action from this kind of aid than other countries because of the same political links which would be at risk from non-involvement.

The Government's position is even more difficult to understand when one recalls its leading role in trying to persuade other countries to put up more money for IDA — partly because of economic self-interest. No one could argue that Britain, which spends 0.35 per cent of gross national product (half the international guidelines) on overseas aid, is already over-generous. A Chancellor who can regard the billions spent on the coal strike as a good investment, whose borrowing is low by world standards, but who can't find \$50 million a year for three years from the small change of the borrowing requirement, deserves what he will get from the history books. Fiscal rectitude will not feed empty stomachs.

## A meeting or a gavotte?

The first and the main thing to be decided at the resumed European Disarmament conference in Stockholm is whether this is intended to be a businesslike meet-

ing. Come freeze, come thaw, talks on one or other aspects of disarmament take place all the time and have done so since the end of the second world war. The main thing they have had in common has been the paucity of their results. While there have been notable exceptions in the drafting of limited conventions to regulate certain modes of warfare, there have been scant advances towards disarmament properly defined, which is the simple reduction of weapons and armed forces. The emphasis has shifted towards methods of reducing the risk of war, even though both sides remain fully capable of waging it, and that is the limited aim at Stockholm now.

The Soviet Union's opening bid has not been especially impressive, but that may not matter very much. The opening plenary is the occasion for a set piece, in this case the revival for the umpteenth time of the Warsaw Pact's proposal for a non-aggression treaty with the West. There is absolutely nothing against such a treaty, except that it has been signed twice already, in the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act. If it would make the Russians any happier the West should let them have it, but the West is on firmer ground in seeking to extend the guarantees which lie behind a non-aggression treaty by positive methods to prevent surprise attack or war by miscalculation.

To the detached observer there would, even so, seem something paradoxical about the proposals (which neutral countries generally support), for a full exchange of information about troop dispositions and of observers at the other side's manoeuvres. It is as though Henry V had invited the Dauphin of France to take a turn with him at the front, followed by cocktails, on the eve of Agincourt. The purpose of manoeuvres is to place the army in readiness, and one element of readiness, whether for defence or attack, is surely the capacity for surprise. The Russians are not as strenuously opposed to these suggestions as might be expected, and there is a strong hope that they will examine the West's ideas when the conference divides into study groups. Some such confidence-building measures are already in operation. Whether the Russians will accept a full exchange of information on January 1 every year, about the location of forces and battle headquarters (and if so how the information shall be

verified) is still an open question. But the very discussion of such plans strongly confirms what everybody already knows — that neither side in Europe is planning to attack the other, and that war games are held almost entirely for the professional satisfaction of the generals.

The British and American delegates handled the Russian non-aggression plan more roughly than was necessary, but all the same the conference has resumed in a better frame of mind than it adjourned. Its deadline for reporting is not until the summer of next year, and what happens then will depend more on the state of play in the nuclear talks in Geneva than on the merits of the arguments in Stockholm. Had they wanted to, the Russians could have been caustic yesterday about the West's ambitious plans for espionage by consent, but they kept their silence. That in turn bodes well for Geneva.

In another strange, almost Quixotic gesture the Russians have invited the president of the World Jewish Congress to visit Moscow. They may be certain that this will go down well in Washington and, even though it is probably more closely connected with their desire to get back into the Middle East, it is another sign that the Russians, like the Americans for different reasons, have had enough antagonism for the time being. Long-range weather forecasting is not yet a fine art, but the further outlook as of Thursday morning is for the mild spell to continue.

## The buck and General Ver

Considering that the injustice was seen being done on television around the world, justice in the Aquino murder case in the Philippines has taken a long, long time to make itself visible. It is almost a year and a half since Mr Benigno Aquino, principal political opponent of the authoritarian President Marcos, bravely flew home from exile to take the fight to the political enemy — only to be publicly shot dead as he emerged from his aircraft in an extraordinary scene which understandably still lingers in many memories, another man was shot dead close by immediately afterwards

and then was served up to the world as the alleged sole assassin.

Hardly anyone believed this suspiciously tidy version. A number of investigations began, faltered, stopped and started again and protests against the Marcos regime grew. The President himself disappeared from the public eye for so long that it was eventually necessary to show him on television reading a current newspaper to prove he was still alive.

But the prolonged crisis over the Aquino murder combined with the ailing President's equally protracted absence from public view have shown that the turbulent archipelago can not only function without him but also has a fair chance of avoiding a deluge after his departure from office. More than a week ago another important political exile, Mr Jovito Salonga, followed in the late Mr Aquino's footsteps by returning from years of self-imposed absence in the United States. This time there was no shooting; instead the authorities dropped outstanding subversion charges against him several days in advance and helped him to pass through the airport unharmed and his jubilant supporters. Nor has his return so far rocked the state to its foundations.

Transcending all this is the undoubted progress in the past few weeks of the due process of law in the Aquino case, thanks largely to the moral courage of the government's own ombudsman, Mr Bernardo Fernandez. Now 17 men, including the generals in charge of air security and the Manila police, face charges of alleged complicity in the murder of Aquino and his "assassin", while another eight, including General Fabian Ver, the Chief of Staff of the forces, stand accused of conspiracy to cover up the killings after the event. General Ver is a relative and lifelong associate of President Marcos: if the buck still has not stopped, there is not much higher for it to go. The wheels of justice now seem to be turning without fear or favour after a dubious start. If this refreshing trend continues the United States, with its important strategic interests in the Philippines, will have less cause to worry about the threat posed by the communists. New People's Army. If it were not for recent American blunders in Central America, one could feel optimistic about the fact that Washington has already begun to talk with the resurgent democratic opposition.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Selling a dummy

Sir, — I note your headline "Dummy cruise launcher occupied" (January 18) but am not fooled. I have observed the cruise convoys on numerous occasions, even flying down in front of one with clutch trouble as it was towed along the A339 (June 28, 1984). On December 11, I kept watch from a derelict house as a local woman filmed the entire 22 vehicle convoy with four Transporter-Erector-Launchers and two control vehicles being driven through Newbury.

Either all these launchers were dummies or the one I occupied in Hanger 303 on January 16 was the real thing. I challenge the USAF to produce this alleged dummy, if it can!

But then I suppose the MoD and USAF have to try and save face in the light of our persistently successful actions against the deployment of cruise missiles. Their evictive/harassment strategy has clearly failed. — For peace

Rebecca Johnson, Woman's Peace Camp, Greenham Common, Newbury, Berkshire.

## When the Coal Board ignores the wisdom of Schumacher

Sir, — Margaret Thatcher, Peter Walker and Ian MacGregor use the call for the closure of "uneconomic pits" as a substitute for argument and as a means of hiding the true cost of their policies.

The public has never been told how a pit is to be judged "uneconomic" or "uneconomical" and the question of the future of the coal industry has never been placed in the wider context of an overall energy policy. Yet the argument between conservation and the closure of uneconomic pits has been carried on within the NCB and between the NCB and the NUM for more than 20 years.

With the advent of this Government and then Mr MacGregor, the conservation case was lost within the board. The claim that the NUM has never before opposed closures on economic grounds is untrue: the only reasons for closure acceptable to the NUM, since the early seventies, have been exhaustion of reserves and safety problems.

The case for conservation was made in the fifties and sixties by E. F. Schumacher

when he was economic adviser to the Coal Board. Schumacher showed that conventional arguments cannot be applied to finite non-renewable resources. In Coal — The Next Fifty Years, he said: "An uneconomic colliery may represent nothing more than a slight deviation from the principle of best seams first."

This principle is not a principle of economics. A mining industry that did not honour the concept of "conservation" would be failing in its long-term duties to the community. What to take now and what to leave for later is, in fact, a question of ethics, not of economics.

He went on to say that conservation was not always compatible with free competition and therefore required a national energy policy. The need for a policy that harnesses our natural resources is brought home by the CEEB, in evidence to the Sizewell inquiry, and by the British Geological Survey which both show that the present NCB programme of automation and the concentration of production into the "central coalfield" leaves

Britain not with 300 years of reserves as claimed by the NCB, but with at the most 50 years.

Underlying the Government and NCB strategy are the assumptions that the exchange rate will not fall below \$1.50 to the pound, and that there will always be a supply of cheap coal available on the international spot market to meet any excess of demand over supply (Department of Energy Scenario "BL").

The exchange rate assumption is already falsified by such an extent that many of the pits classified as uneconomic a year ago are now economic.

The Government and the NCB with their "cheap coal" policy are setting us up for the coal crisis. How quickly and at what cost we then return to the "sterilised" reserves of Wales, Scotland and the North-east?

Mr Geoffrey Kirk, former NCB public relations director, said in 1982 about the earlier pit closure programme: "Schumacher's belief in the need to preserve alternative choices had been ignored, and the British

people are still having to live with the consequences."

We can see why Mr Kirk's views were unacceptable to MacGregor: they serve to warn us that if this Government forces the miners to accept another major round of pit closures, the British people will again have to suffer the long-term consequences of short-term objectives. — Your faithfully, (Dr) Martin Newby, Schools of Industrial Technology, University of Bradford.

Sir, — I wonder if any of your readers would tell me whether they consider that the National Union of Mineworkers is now selling towards or away from the task force. — Yours, etc, (Lord) Winstanley, House of Lords.

Sir, — As the miners' strike drags on, we feel compelled to consider what action we would take if we were still — as we were in 1926 — a miner and his wife, with a small son to consider. But I was also, with my colleague Michael Gedge, the unpaid parish priest, after the Archbishop

of Canterbury agreed to "let it happen."

We should have to choose whether to join the strike, or report for work, or return to the "neutral" status of an ordinary parish priest; the easy way out, with at least a 30 per cent increase in income and the happy approval, no doubt, of all the conventionally minded people.

We think we should support the strike, take turns on the picket lines, and make it quite clear that we are, like a majority of miners, totally opposed to intimidation and would not treat working miners as moral outcasts. We know very well the pressures put on people, especially those with families, by cold and deprivation, often compounded by quite genuine doubts about the wisdom of the NUM leadership.

We would remain on strike until a general return to work took place because we have a fellow-feeling for all who feel themselves clobbered by Government big sticks. The appointment of Mr MacGregor was a barefaced, ill-judged act of provocation; we are suspicious, like Arthur Scargill, of the

term "uneconomic pits."

The NCB indeed made an offer, but only after the strike had been going a long time.

When, however, does a locally uneconomic pit become genuinely "uneconomic" from a national point of view? That is a question no one at the NCB seems prepared to answer.

Mr MacGregor can depart to a well-earned retirement whenever he sees fit of it all. He has no need to be patient. Miners have no such choice.

John and Veronica Strong, Morcombelake, Bridport, Dorset.

Sir, — Those who are using that the Government and Mrs Thatcher be magnanimous in victory over the NUM should be prepared to answer the question how much magnanimity would Arthur Scargill have shown her or them if he had been repeatedly said his aim was the defeat and destruction of the Tory Government. — W. E. Stued, Tregow road, Flushing, Cornwall.

### Overheated about blood

Sir, — I sympathise with Mrs Harrison (Letters, January 23) in her anxiety that English haemophiliacs should have a sufficient supply of British heat-treated factor VIII. To allay the possible distress which her letter may have caused to other sufferers, however, I must correct some of the mis-statements in her letter.

The facts are these: Aids was first described early in 1981 and the first case in a haemophiliac was reported to the Centre for Disease Control in the United States later that year. Medical intelligence travels fast and these facts were well known to us as all British haemophilia centres at that time.

Although the occurrence in haemophiliacs provided strong evidence that the disease could be transmitted by blood products, however, it was not until 1984 that the causative virus, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), had meanwhile been introduced in the attempt (unfortunately so far unsuccessful) to prevent the transmission of hepatitis, but this was no rationale for its use to prevent Aids until this had also been shown to be caused by a virus.

Fortunately the Aids virus (HTLV-3) seems to be more sensitive to heat than hepatitis B virus and it is a very small virus. The treatment introduced for the latter disease will prove effective in preventing the former.

With regard to the production of heat-treated British concentrates, Mrs Harrison was certainly not told by this hospital that "only minute quantities would be ready in April." In fact, we are already beginning to use this material and supplies will fully replace those of the old untreated concentrates by April or May this year. There is as yet no evidence that heat-treated American concentrate carries the risk of Aids. — Yours faithfully, (Professor) R. M. Hardisty, Director, Haemophilia Centre, Children's Hospitals for Sick Children, London WC1.

## Why a 'foreign company' should declare its Sizewell interest

Sir, — Your report (January 28) of a detective agency's inquiries into the Sizewell power station hearings says its aim was to find out the "political earnings" of the directors, and this presented no problem as "all the information was freely available from the inquiries secretariat". As one of the objects who has had dealings with the secretariat, may I assure you that this is not true. I have never been asked by the secretariat for any political leanings and I am sure its staff would not help such an outside agency.

It would not be difficult to find such information elsewhere. Come to that, they could have asked me.

But why should a "foreign company" want such information to assess, as your report puts it, "the quality and strength of objection to Britain's first pressurised water reactor in order to plan its own future building strategy"? No company would plan its strategy until or unless Sizewell B had been given the go-ahead by the Central Electricity Generating Board had placed



firm orders.

At that point, the politics and strength of the objections would become nothing but an item from the past. And why, even now, is the name of the foreign company being kept secret if its activities were all above board?

The truth is that there is disquiet after the death of Ms Hilda Marrell about others who may now be seeking information about objects at the inquiry. The company which hired a detective agency may be beyond suspicion, but it would be helpful if those seeking information would

go public, just as the objects have done.

We have nothing to hide, and it is ridiculous to suppose that a "foreign company" needs to employ a detective agency to be given the address for Friends of the Earth. — Yours truly, David Ross, London SE5.

Sir, — I was intrigued to read the comment made on behalf of the CEEB, when asked about its view of the Sizewell B project. It stated: "It is the evidence that matters, and has done all the

way through, no matter what the antecedents of individuals might be."

How does the CEEB square this with the grilling it gave Paul Rafter, then national secretary of the Anti-Nuclear Campaign, when he was cross-examined on evidence he gave on behalf of the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance? What had specifically questioned the integrity and honesty of the CEEB. The board's barrister was at pains to establish Mr Rowntree's background and affiliations.

And what about the explanation of the barrister made of the background of a GLC witness, David Hutchinson, establishing that he was also a director of Friends of the Earth. A fact Mr Hutchinson had not attempted to conceal.

These are but two occasions where the CEEB attempted to clarify the background of objects. In its words, "in so far as it is relevant to the inquiry."

The Open University, Milton Keynes, Bucks.

A little while ago, the prospect of increased bus and train fares in London was criticised by Can't Pay, Won't Pay. Now the television pictures of Harold Macmillan (sorry, Lord Stockton) in the House of Lords with his ear-trumpet, castigating the monetarist policies of the Government, is encapsulated by Pe's new play Trumpets and Raspberries. — Yours faithfully, Lea Snow, Wembley, Middlesex.

Sir, — Bob Croy (Letters, January 26) is misguided in taking issue on Neil Kinnock's attack on the Commons "debate" demonstration. Neil was replying to a very long debate in the parliamentary party occasioned by criticism of the action by fellow Labour MPs, including myself. The leader therefore did not initiate the demonstration. — Yours sincerely, George Robertson, MP, (Lab, Hamilton), House of Commons.

## Miscellany

Sir, — Isn't it amazing! Arthur Scargill is branded as a dangerous subversive when he talks of challenging the law. But the Transport Secretary does not even exhaust legal procedures to appeal against the High Court decision that he was acting improperly in seeking an extra levy from the GLC towards London Regional Transport costs.

Nicholas Ridley simply decides to use the Government's huge Commons majority to change the law. What a pity Ken Livingstone did not take that option when the GLC Fares Fair scheme was declared illegal in 1982. — Yours sincerely, Sarah Vele, London WC1.

Sir, — Dario Fo seems to have a knack of providing his play-titles a timely slogan for contemporary political issues.

A little while ago, the prospect of increased bus and train fares in London was criticised by Can't Pay, Won't Pay. Now the television pictures of Harold Macmillan (sorry, Lord Stockton) in the House of Lords with his ear-trumpet, castigating the monetarist policies of the Government, is encapsulated by Pe's new play Trumpets and Raspberries. — Yours faithfully, Lea Snow, Wembley, Middlesex.

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## Behind racialism's symptoms

Sir, — I live in Clements Avenue, the street from which Mrs McDonnell was evicted for racial harassment. The TV Eye programme which focused on the problem of racial disharmony in our street was exaggerated and simplistic in its approach.

While there are doubtless people in this area — as in others who hold and express racist views — the vast majority of tenants have friends from many cultures. The programme was exaggerated — even racist — in its isolation of the Asian experience from those of the rest of the community.

All the residents here suffer from time to time from harassment. This can be as simple as vulgar graffiti, broken windows, or the theft and destruction of property. The perpetrators of this harassment? Mostly children, some as young as five or six.

It was simplistic of the programme's producers not to address this fact and, through it, the root cause of the attacks. Poverty, not racism, is the real problem. The children in our streets have no green spaces, no play areas, and very limited access to sports facilities. Their homes are generally overcrowded and their future prospects bleak.

While the local council is aware of these problems, a rate-capped borough has its resources tightly stretched. But action must be taken, and concern must be voiced. Focusing on racism is to look at a symptom. The cause is even more worrying. — Yours faithfully, Anne Redston, London E18.

Sir, — While welcoming evidence that some sections of the media are now taking seriously the issue of racial harassment and racist attack, as one of the (presumably) "more radical critics" referred to in your Leader (January 28) and as one of the group who complained about the TV Eye pro-

gramme, Racial Outlaws, we feel bound to point out what the actual facts and criticisms were.

The programme did not set out to expose racism. As its basis it questioned the advisability of any legal action against the perpetrators of racist attack; but it did not once address itself to the use of the criminal law.

We are extremely concerned at the programme's effect on "Tower Hamlets. The community groups and individuals who have complained to the IBA, are not blaming the reporter for reporting bad and sad news, but are blaming the reporter for providing an incentive for racists to organise and publicise their obnoxious views. (Cllr) Dennis Twomey, Community Alliance for London E2.

Sir, — While welcoming evidence that some sections of the media are now taking seriously the issue of racial harassment and racist attack, as one of the (presumably) "more radical critics" referred to in your Leader (January 28) and as one of the group who complained about the TV Eye pro-

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## A COUNTRY DIARY

NORFOLK: Winter floods play an important part in seed dispersal. When the waters subside, they leave well-marked accumulations of litter. These contain seeds of many aquatic and marsh plants, often accompanied by drifted shells of small molluscs and remains of drowned insects which, as nutrients for any seedlings produced later. Snow carpets have been liberally peppered with small seeds shed by alder and birch trees, and I have noticed that docks have dropped quantities of their somewhat larger, rust brown seeds on to the snow. In a subsequent thaw, many of these have been swept away in melt-waters and eventually stranded far from their place of origin. However, when waters rise in areas tufted with jungles of marsh vegetation, floating seeds are less likely to travel far. Instead one finds them lodged on the leaves of tussock sedges and other emergent plants. The advantage, gained in this way, becomes apparent later when from their high perches they enjoy exposure to April's sunning rays, encouraged to germinate more readily than seeds lying in the deep shade of the undergrowth. Even in a dry spring, such seedlings are assured of establishing readily, as support their development. — Yours faithfully, (Professor) R. M. Hardisty, Director, Haemophilia Centre, Children's Hospitals for Sick Children, London WC1.

## Advice and consent for under-16s after the Gillick ruling

Sir, — Andrew Veitch presents (January 29) an inaccurate description of Brook Advisory Centres' policy on seeing under 16 year old clients following the judgement in the Gillick case by the Court of Appeal.

In July 1983 Mr Justice Woolf ruled in the High Court that an under 16 year old with sufficient maturity and understanding could give consent to medical treatment. This wise judgement enabled doctors to provide effective help to sexually active under 16s.

Many already had the support of their parents in seeking help. Indeed, mothers often come with their daughters to the Centres. Others could be encouraged to con-

sult in their parents, and could be given help meanwhile. It is, after all, the more responsible of the sexually active 15 year olds who go to the trouble of asking for a doctor's help with contraception.

But in December 1984 the Court of Appeal overturned this judgement saying in effect that no under 16 is capable of giving consent to medical treatment. Oddly, although consent is not usually required by someone planning to give advice, the Court used Mrs Gillick's words "advice and

treatment".

The Brook Advisory Centres in England (the judgement does not apply to Scotland) are therefore unable

except in emergencies to give contraceptive advice or treatment to under 16s who do not already have the support of their parents — in many cases those who need help most. We continue to welcome under 16s, and all consultations remain completely confidential. We can no longer provide "advice on the pill" or other methods of contraception for that matter which could help to protect them from pregnancy. — Yours sincerely, Alison Fraser, Brook Advisory Centres, London, SE17.

Sir, — Victoria Gillick (Letters, January 26) implies that male chauvinist pigs oppose a woman's right to

choose: that is to decide for herself what to do with her own reproductive system. I am sure she is right.

But she says nothing about all the women who stand in the way of their sisters — not to mention their daughters — autonomy. Women have always formed the most effective opposition to women's right to choose — as I fear Victoria Gillick's daughters may discover. — Yours, Polly Schofield, Oxford.

Sir, — Bob Croy (Letters, January 26) is misguided in taking issue on Neil Kinnock's attack on the Commons "debate" demonstration. Neil was replying to a very long debate in the parliamentary party occasioned by criticism of the action by fellow Labour MPs, including myself. The leader therefore did not initiate the demonstration. — Yours sincerely, George Robertson, MP, (Lab, Hamilton), House of Commons.

Futures letter — page 15









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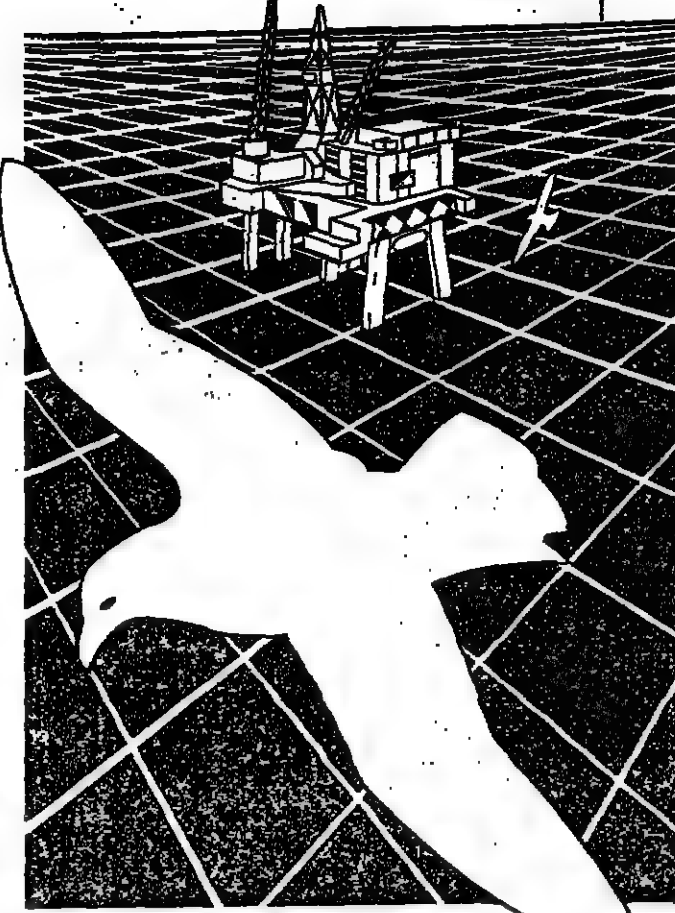
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Topics include the following: study of some aspect of information technology including software engineering, IBS, MM, use of electron beam lithography in the fabrication of semi-conductor devices, image processing, high speed networks, experimental or theoretical study of High Energy Physics, use of high power pulsed lasers, provision of large scale computing for data analysis and theoretical modelling.

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The closing date for applications is: 28 February 1985

**serc** Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

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# FUTURES MICRO GUARDIAN

Thursday January 31 1985 15



Anne Hughes: check mate in 3-D. Picture by Garry Weaver

The QL didn't quite sweep the board, but it isn't in pawn either. Daniel Valence tries a new gambit

## Good tidings from Psion

IF THE BBC B and the Spectrum have been granted longevity by the quality of the software, what will happen to the QL? Announced to the public just over a year ago, it has been through the first two stages of the familiar "Sinclair Curve" (static reviews based on claimed specifications followed by near despair as delivery delays mount and bugs appear. If it is now, hopefully, nearing the end of the tertiary, or debugging, stage its future will then be in the hands of the great British public and the software houses.

One of the few non-business applications now on the market, QL Chess (Psion, £19.95) augurs well for the future of the machine. Versions for the IBM, Apricot and Macintosh are in the pipeline.

As a chess program it is easy to use and powerful, having been joint winner of the ninth world micro computer chess competition (admittedly running on a more powerful Sage machine). But what sets it apart is the 3D graphics effect which is a quite stunning advance on the usual computer chess set up in which a symbol of a king, a bishop disappears from one square to appear a fraction of a second on another, with the great danger of stalemate by eyesight.

In this version you move a piece by positioning an

enlarged cursor on the squares you want to move from and to, then (after pressing the "return" key) a sculptured piece moves slowly across the board to where it is destined. It is easily the most lifelike chess board on a micro.

There are no distracting prompt messages on the screen (you can get these by pressing the F2 key which brings you back to the familiar two-dimensional board complete with record of moves so far, time taken, what the computer is thinking, and all the prompts).

The pieces were designed by Anne Hughes, aged 26, who came to Psion as a graphic designer with no knowledge of computers and little of chess. Using a specially made in-house design program she was able to enlarge each piece she was working on so that the minute rectangles or pixels which make up a TV screen are clearly visible. She can then colour the pixels and build up a sculptured 3D effect, a process she likens to pointillist painting.

How strong is the program? Playing on a response level of two seconds it convincingly beats the BBC White Knight II (itself a highly recommended program which won a previous micro competition) after 43 moves when the latter was on a 10-second response.

The QL program (playing black, again on a two-second response, beat the Spectrum Cyrus's Chess (48k) program on a 10-second response after 50 moves. But both had missed opportunities to checkmate involving sacrifices of material (a weakness of many chess programs) and Cyrus failed to make an obvious rook move to prevent an imminent mate on the other hand, I watched the QL on a six-second response holding its own against a strong club player with a grading of around 170.

That may have been partly because the player was taking a long time over his own responses, unaware that the Psion chess is programmed to carry on crunching during your thinking time so if you make a logical response he may already have guessed it and so can move quickly and "bank" the rest of his six seconds for later on.

Another player, however, graded about 115 (about the standard of a weak club player) beat the program most times on two-minute response, but stumbled on three minutes I would guess that in normal tournament conditions of a three-minute response time the QL would play at a grading of between 115 and 120. In other words, it will give a strong game to the 99 per cent of the population

who are not serious chess players.

It plays on anything from "novice" level (deliberately giving you winning chances) to an infinite response time. It claims to have a knowledge of 4,000 moves. I cannot vouch for that, but it certainly does most of the standard openings which makes it an ideal chess tutor — particularly as it allows you to take back moves to try another variation. You can also set up your own positions and play on from there. Or let the computer play both sides (enabling it to adjudicate games). It can also solve chess problems very quickly, will print out moves, change colours, invert the board, replay and so on. It is easy to operate (mine ran faultlessly from the controversial micro-drives) and must be regarded as a state-of-the-art program.

It is not worth buying the QL just to play this program. But if you are thinking of buying a strong, dedicated chess computer (ie, one that does nothing else except play chess) then it certainly might be worth looking at this instead. And if you already own a QL, well, just go out and buy it.

The Psion Quill word-processing program (one of the four programs that are included in the cost (£399) of the QL was less impressive. In

theory, it ought to be terrific. All the "prompts" you need can be called up on the screen and, unlike Wordwise (for the BBC), when you underline, indent, change typeface and so forth, you can see the result on the screen in front of you. On the version I tested the speed at which typing was accepted was very slow and, on several occasions, on pressing the "shift" key simultaneously with the up or down cursor keys — which is supposed to move you up or down one paragraph — the entire text disappeared without trace. This, I said to myself, is not the strongest possible selling point for a wordprocessing program. I have since tried the latest version (about to be released) which is much faster and appears not subject to the above-mentioned bug.

But you are still left with the famed QL keyboard. While a distinct improvement on the Spectrum (and, more marginally, on the Apricot) it is still a clanking noise like Gene Kelly's shoe in a puddle, and is simply not a fast typist's keyboard. You can get more used to it with practice, but it is no substitute for a proper one. But then, who can complain at the price? Once the bugs are ironed out of the hard (and soft) ware the QL will represent startling value for money.

What use are good micros and good teachers when teamed with bad programs? Keith Devlin reports

## The software jungle

IN MANY ways the introduction of micros into schools was similar to the decision to send the Task Force to the Falklands. There were powerful arguments in favour of both, but in both cases the final decision was taken hastily, with the inevitable pressure brought about by that most unstoppable factor, the fragile eggs of ministers. This time the place to resurrect the Falklands issue, but as far as micros into schools is concerned, the haste with which it was carried out created problems which could have been avoided had more thought gone into the issue.

As the experts said at the time to no avail, there is no point in simply supplying the hardware. Without good software it is useless. With bad software it can be positively harmful. And good software is difficult to produce. With the best will in the world (and heaven knows there is plenty of that about in the teaching profession), it cannot be produced by paying teachers to do it at home in their spare time. To do the job properly (and if it is not done properly it should not be done at all), you need a great deal of expertise, involving educationalists, mathematicians (if the technology is to be used to its proper potential). In short, good software is expensive. Very expensive.

Similar remarks can be made about books, of course. But there are two significant differences. Firstly, books have been with us for a very long time, and there is a wealth of accumulated wisdom when it comes to writing them. Secondly, and this is where the danger lies, the great majority of the users of computer technology in schools are not at all familiar with it, with the result that there is very little chance that inherently bad programs will be seen for what they are. No teacher would choose a book simply because it has a nice glossy cover, but how many teachers are able to properly evaluate a computer program?

I'll admit that I, for one, do not feel qualified to judge an educational program unaided. Certainly I could comment on any mathematical content — if the software supplier were to supply me with details. But as far as any other aspect goes, I simply do not know enough about the subject. All I can go on is the surface gloss, and this can

be produced in copious amounts on a modern micro. I'm not trying to attack teachers. Nor the brave souls who struggled to produce some programs to run on the suddenly acquired machines (I even did a bit of this myself). The main culprit, as usual, is a Government which seems singularly inept when it comes to anything to do with education. Education does not come cheap. Particularly so when computers are involved. The poor struggling teacher has to pick up the pieces and make the best of what is available.

In the meantime, my advice to teachers would be to tread warily

I spoke about danger. Was I overreacting? I don't know. And what is more, I doubt if anyone does. We simply do not have enough experience yet. What I do know (because I have been informed by experts whose judgment I respect) is that there are various programs currently in use in schools up and down the country which do not stand up to a proper analysis.

Notably in this class are those programs which profess to develop the ability of the student to make balanced decisions. (You know the kind of thing. A list of options is given, you choose one, and so on, and at the end you get an evaluation of your decisions. There are lots of variations on this theme.)

To be of any real educational value, such a program should provide a good simulation of a real life decision making procedure. (Unless it is regarded as useful for the student simply to figure out just what the writer of the program had in mind.) Unfortunately, this area of computational science, namely Artificial Intelligence, is known to present great problems, problems which have not been satisfactorily solved so far.

And which are not likely to be solved in a manner which can be implemented on your average school micro. The potential danger is that a whole generation will grow up with the impression that the computer can help them to make valued decisions, which (except in a highly restricted sense) is certainly not the case. No doubt things will gra-

dually improve. (Indeed there are some "educational" programs on the market which strike me as very good indeed.) But it would have been far better had the whole enterprise been properly thought out in the first place. In the meantime, my advice to teachers would be to tread warily. No, I am not claiming to know all there is on this subject. I know just about enough to realise how little I really do know. And that worries me.

One area of software where there would appear to be no danger of the kind I have mentioned is, of course, computer games. Within this category there are several which could be regarded as "educational." I was looking at some recently put out by ASK of 68 Upper Richmond Road, in London SW15 2RP. A lot of their stuff consists of material involving basic arithmetical skills wrapped up in the form of a game. Trying some out on my 10-year-old daughter, I found that the colour graphics and sound effects were good enough to keep her attention (though coming from an environment which is decidedly mathematical she can hardly be regarded as a typical user). The two programs we tried were Cranky and Number Puzzle. Assuming that at some time a child does have to master basic arithmetic, I would have thought that for a child who enjoys to use a computer, these programs are as good a way as any to get it over with.

Much more to my taste were Squeeze and Juggle Puzzle, both written by my Warwick University colleague, Dr Ian Stewart. Both involve spatial reasoning. Squeeze is a two-person game (the opponent can be the computer) in which the object is to maximise the number of given shapes which can be placed in a fixed region without overlapping, using rotations, translations and reflections. Juggle Puzzle is a two-dimensional analogue of the Rubik's Cube, and at anything but the lowest level is fiendishly difficult.

What particularly appeals to me about these two is that they are purely games, with no overt intention to "teach" or "test." The educational benefit comes from the players having to rely entirely on their own power of reasoning. In other words, they positively encourage analytic thought, whereas many overtly "programmed learning" programs end up doing exactly the opposite.

As the office computer takes on the trappings of the arcade machine, the home micro gains in power. Jack Schofield heralds the electronic semi

## A plug for the ideal home

LAST WEEK I saw an advertisement for a house that offered, as well as the usual array of bedrooms, kitchen, and bathroom, "two telephone lines that actually work, both fitted with Prestel Jacks and one fitted with an answer jack, too!" It may not have impressed the estate agent, but for anyone living in the electronic age the ease of installing a computer complete with communications is an attractive feature for a house to have... now that home computing means more than just games.

For the last five years home and business computers have been diverging, but today they are on a convergent path. The better home computers are becoming more powerful, while office models are fast acquiring all the features of good game machines. This was evident a year ago when Sinclair launched the QL, a personal computer with a suite of sophisticated application programs written by Psion, a software house previously known for Spectrum games. At the launch Clive Sinclair carefully refused to categorise the QL as either a home or a business machine. He said it would find its own market. Atari's boss Jack Tramiel took the same line recently when announcing two similar 16-bit micros, one with 512K or RAM (random access memory). That market is now starting to come to the fore.

Meanwhile office computers are increasingly being equipped with high resolution graphics, colour, sound, and controller ports that may be intended for a "mouse" but could equally well be used for a joystick or trackball. The £1,100+ Tandy 1000, one of the latest IBM-compatible micros, has a joystick port anyway. A few years ago, most computing was done using terminals which worked like a glass typewriter. That is no longer adequate. You need graphics to run today's leading spreadsheets such as Lotus 1-2-3 and SuperCalc 3, where financial analyses are instantly dis-



played in chart or graph form — and in colour too. Modern business programs like Open Access and Framework allow different "windows" to be opened into the screen, so more than one task can be done at once. This is also an essential feature of the Apple Macintosh, and requires graphics that are even better than most home micros.

With multi-tasking systems, colour is used to distinguish one program from another. That is now part of operating systems such as Digital Research's Concurrent DOS, plus Microsoft's Windows, Quarterdeck's Dmg, and IBM's TopView programs. Further, selecting and initiating tasks is now being done not through the keyboard but using pull-down or pop-up menus and mice. (A mouse is a palm-sized box that moves the cursor when you roll it along your desktop.) Microsoft Word allows text editing with a mouse, and of course mice are fundamental to the Xerox Star, ICL Perq, and Apple's Lisa and Macintosh micros. The Olivetti M-24 has a built-in mouse port; various mice can be fitted to the IBM PC.

While office computers are taking on the trappings of games machines, home com-

puters are becoming more powerful. The Sinclair QL is just the first of many similar machines. Atari's and Commodore have already announced rivals. And no one can pretend that a micro with a Motorola 68000 processor, 512K of RAM and a 15 megabyte hard disc is just a toy, no matter what the name on the box. For 25 years of computer history, corporations, universities and even the Pentagon, had less computer power.

Those are the routes through which "home" and "office" micros are tending to merge. They will not, of course, become the same, but — as with cars, SLR cameras, and telephones — most will be very similar.

The differences will be like those between, say, serious amateur SLR cameras such as the Canon A2-IP and Nikon FG, and professional models like the Canon F1 and Nikon F3. The latter are better made, have more accessories and are three times the price, — but they take the same lenses and films, and they do essentially the same job.

But why is this desirable? A dozen years ago Kenneth Olsen, the boss of Digital Equipment (DEC), turned down the chance to make the first home computer — an even more costly gaffe than

record companies turning down the Beatles. "Why would anyone want a computer in their home?" he asked. It is a question that has often been echoed since.

The fundamental flaw in corporate man is that he thinks when people are not at work they are not doing anything. In fact people at home are doing all sorts of things: writing letters and making shopping lists, filling in tax returns or football coupons, collecting books, stamps or records, planning their garden or their holiday, learning to drive, type, sail or fly, holding jumble sales, organising protest meetings against motorways, looking up the theatre or train timetables, publishing church magazines, plotting the overthrow of the government...

In other words, they are gathering data, keeping records, making decisions and producing reports — just the same kind of things that they do in the office. So far the home computer craze has been prompted by curiosity and sustained by games. As the appeal of games starts to die away, the growth of home computing will undoubtedly subside. However, there will remain a large body of people with real practical uses for computers. They will not only want, but need, powerful home systems similar to, and about as capable as, typical office systems.

In the future, also, we expect more people to be working in the information industries, more people being self-employed, and more of those who work for corporations actually working from home. These developments will all lead to powerful micros being installed in large numbers of homes.

These are the real markets for machines like the Sinclair QL, the ACT Apricot F1, the IBM PCjr, and the new machines on the way from Atari and Commodore.

The "electronic semi" may not be here yet, but it is certainly on the way.

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## Redundant defence of the malignant Unix

NO DOUBT many UNIX buffs will have felt the foundations of their ivory towers shaking as they read Jack Schofield's article. Waiting for a false dawn (Micro January 17). His often, valid points — were, however, weakened by overstatement.

I shall take the points I believe should be contested, in order of their appearance in the original article:

● Unix is portable in that it runs on at least 40 machine architectures. MS-DOS is not because it only runs on one (the 8086 family).

● Co-Jdris (a Unix re-write) runs in 192Kb of main memory on the IBM (this figure includes the co-resident PC-DOS) and requires less than 2Mb hard disc storage for all operating system utilities plus Pascal and C compilers.

● Not only Unix, but also Mac-DOS and CP/M-86 are largely written in C.

● Unix is portable in that it runs on at least 40 machine architectures. MS-DOS is not because it only runs on one (the 8086 family).

● More than one software house is already working to port versions of Unix on to the Sinclair QL, which will mean Unix on both cheap and expensive machines.

● 240,000 super-micro Unix machines means about two million super-micro users, whereas four million PC

micros running MS-DOS means four million PC users.

Finally, and sadly, my letter is redundant. The relative merits of Unix versus MS-DOS probably have little influence on which operating system will eventually triumph: the relative marketing muscle of the giants IBM and AT&T is a much more important factor.

John Doyle  
RTS Software Products Ltd,  
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Wide ranging development work associated with integrated financial systems and on-line manufacturing systems. Your first responsibility will be to assist with the conversion from an ICL 2960 to ICL 2980 running under CME/PMF. You should have a minimum of four years' experience with ICL and COBOL, with the last two years in a VME environment, preferably using IPMS.  
Send full cv to Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Field Service Engineers**

**£13,000-£14,500 tax-free**  
World leader in hospital laboratory automation, producing broad range of scientific/medical instrumentation for use in clinical pathology, needs additional Engineers to install systems, attend to routine/emergency maintenance and assist in training. A two-year renewable contract on single status, it demands the expertise of experienced Engineers aged 25-35, qualified to HNC Electronics with a background in the servicing of computer-controlled equipment, ideally medical instrumentation. People with laboratory experience in biochemistry or haematology and knowledge of electronics also considered. Tax-free salary, bonus, free furnished accommodation, car, medical and life insurance, two months' annual leave, six fairs paid. Industrial training in France. Send full cv and passport size photograph to Colin Hodson, PER Overseas, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Electrical/Electronic Development Engineer**

**Five figure salary**  
World leader in metallised products for packaging, decorative, electrical applications needs electronics expert to develop technology further. Knowledge of complex paper and film handling machines, laminators, variable speed controls etc. essential. Profit share and relocation.  
Send full cv to Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**General Manager/Director**

**£18,000 - £20,000**  
A highly successful, privately owned British company, seeks a General Manager/Director for a small, thriving subsidiary company, manufacturing, marketing and selling radio communications equipment internationally in a rapidly expanding market. Candidates, aged 35-45, should have all-round management skills with a strong background in electrical/electronic manufacture, experience of financial planning and control and familiarity with computer systems. In particular, they need an individual who can provide strong leadership to a small, dedicated workforce and who has the ability and strength of character to fully develop the company's undoubted potential. It is envisaged that the successful candidate will progress rapidly to the position of Managing Director. Executive package, including relocation.  
Send full cv to Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Store Manager**

**£13,000**  
A major retailer needs a talented young Manager to successfully launch and develop a new purpose-built 20,000 sq ft home-furnishing store. This is an exciting opportunity for a self-motivated, commercially-minded individual who can match at least five years' senior management experience in furniture or electrical retailing with exceptional staff management, profit achievement, merchandising and display skills. Experience in store openings would be a natural asset. Excellent package, relocation where applicable, exciting prospects.  
Send full cv to Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Senior Production Engineer**

**£13,000**  
Leading British manufacturer of electro-mechanical component parts and spares needs Senior Engineer to take overall responsibility for machine shop and assembly functions. With support of a small engineering team, brief includes liaison with R&D in considering evolving alternative production methods (currently batch) with regard to work flow, machinery, plant, costs and output. HNC qualified in production/mechanical engineering. Five years' relevant experience. Understanding of machine tool applications. Strong interpersonal skills.  
Send full cv to Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Manufacturing Engineer**

**Excellent salary + bonuses**  
A C Sparkling Overseas Corporation are manufacturers of instrumentation systems and components for the automotive industry. We are now seeking to strengthen our manufacturing engineering department and require a suitably qualified and experienced Engineer. Reporting to the Chief Production Engineer you will be qualified to degree or equivalent level in electronics. In addition, the candidate will have a practical background in a manufacturing engineering environment, experience in volume production and the ability to prepare detailed specifications for test and assembly equipment. It is envisaged that the successful candidate will have in-depth knowledge of at least one of the following: robotics, micro-processor control, process control/closed loop principles, computer vision. The candidate will join a team of professionally qualified Engineers involved in the manufacture of high technology automobile components in a mass production environment. Prospects will be in keeping with those normally offered by a major international company.  
Send full cv to Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Opportunities in Middlesex**

**Attractive package**  
Well-established engine manufacturer, part of major British group, needs:

**Analyst/Programmers**

**To £14,000**  
To join small management services team, taking projects through from investigation to implementation, based on HP 3000, MIB Model 44, 800 MB on disc storage and 31 terminals. HP and manufacturing expertise ideal.

**Technical Author**

**Attractive package**  
To concentrate on detail and assist with new operator handbook and other publications in line with new product plans. Drafting and graphics ability. Negotiable salary. Pension and sick pay schemes, 25 days' annual holiday. Excellent prospects for further professional growth.  
Send full cv to Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Conference Organiser**

**£12,000 + benefits**  
A leading, London based institute of international relations needs a Conference Organiser with hotel experience, a working knowledge of East Asia and fluency in two or three languages besides English, to travel extensively overseas, predominantly in SE Asia. Ideal age 24-30. A high degree of energy, initiative and professionalism is essential.  
Send full cv to Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Production Supervisors**

**To £10,000**  
Part of an international group, with a reputation for quality, this manufacturing company wishes to add a number of high-calibre Production Supervisors to its team, to take control of a light fabrication/assembly shift operation and 50-60 staff. Aged 25+, an Engineer qualified to HNC/degree level, you must demonstrate strong managerial, organisational and planning skills, gained in a similar environment. Attractive package.  
Application form from Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Trainee Sales Engineer**

**£6,500 + car**  
Expanding manufacturer of electrical, electronic, optical and electro-mech components for commercial/military applications offers full sales training programme to young graduate Electronics/Electrical Engineer, travelling UK from Greater London/Home Counties base.  
Contact Christopher Martin, PER Brighton, on (0273) 23431.

**Telemetry Technicians**

**Negotiable salary**  
Major exploration and production company, supplying natural gas for national grid, needs additional Technicians for telecommunications team based at onshore terminal on Norfolk coast. Working on offshore, duties include planning and implementation of minor work schedules, trouble-shooting and fault repair of equipment. Aged 25-40, qualified to at least ONC in computer-related subjects (ideally HNC/C&G/FTC). Experience: computer systems, computer-based telemetry master stations, printers, colour VDUs, keyboards; telemetry outstations, micro-based equipment, RTU, DTL, TTL and CMOS means up to 1.25 bits, analogue multiplexers, transmission equipment - multiples of voice frequency channels over radio links. Attractive package including relocation.  
Send full cv to Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Programmers**

**Chemical Information Database**  
**Negotiable to £9,200**  
The Royal Society of Chemistry, based on the Nottingham University Campus, employs over 300 staff. Two

Programmers are required to undertake a variety of tasks including program design and writing, testing and the provision of detailed operating instructions. In addition you will be involved with training and will assist Systems Analysts when required. Preferably educated to degree level, you must have a minimum of two years' programming experience on DEC-PDP and possibly VAX using BASIC. Salary is negotiable to £9,200 with relocation expenses where appropriate.  
For further details and application form, please contact Lynda Talley, The Royal Society of Chemistry, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. Telephone Nottingham (0602) 507411 ext 39.

**Electronic Control Technicians**

**Negotiable salary**  
Significant increase in use of CNC and other advanced electronic systems demands appointment of additional Technicians at successful Herts company. Qualifications: HNC, knowledge of CNC and micro, analytical and diagnostic ability. Competitive salary. Major employer benefits.  
Send full cv to Lynda Talley, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

**Training Officer**

**Negotiable package to £10,000**  
Expansion of work force of profitable light engineering company creates new appointment in small personnel and IR team for young, dedicated training professional (two+ years' industrial personnel training experience). Considerable autonomy in recognising current/future needs and design of plans, courses, concentrating on management development, apprentices, graduate industrial placements and semi-skilled personnel. Relocation assistance. Good prospects for further growth. Major company benefits.  
Send full cv to Mr Jones, PER, 4th Floor, Rex House, 4-12 Regent Street, London SW1V 4PP.

For a free job hunting information pack and weekly details on the recruitment market place, including over 450 new jobs, complete this coupon and send it to PER, Moorfoot, The Moor, Sheffield S1 4PQ, or ring (0742) 704585. 24 hour answering service - (0742) 750197.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Salary required: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unemployed or Employed: \_\_\_\_\_

**PER** Professional & Executive Recruitment

**Logic ICL**

People are joining us each day in response to the recent announcement of our exciting new ICL venture. And why? Because the news is spreading fast that this is the place to be if you're an ambitious ICL software professional. You too could realise the value of being involved in a pioneering role with other computer professionals working on the widest range of projects. At the same time you'll enjoy the satisfaction of working in the stimulating environment of one of Europe's leading systems houses.

At last, you can fully exploit your experience in VME, IDMS, TPMS and UNIX as a member of a multi-disciplined team working on Command and Control Systems, Networks Systems Design and Systems Software Design projects - at our Professional Service Centre in Greenford, Middlesex. Here, you'll be using the latest techniques and technologies to handle a wide range of fascinating projects for the Public Sector, MOD and other major commercial users.

We're continuing to create outstanding opportunities for a variety of qualified people:

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| PROGRAMMERS           | up to £16,500       |
| PROGRAMMER/ANALYSTS   | up to £16,500       |
| PROJECT LEADERS       | up to £19,000       |
| DESIGNERS             | up to £19,000       |
| PROJECT MANAGERS      | up to £23,000 + car |
| TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS | up to £23,000 + car |

A career with Data Logic offers excellent rewards in the range quoted above plus extremely attractive benefits and exceptional career prospects. We're really only interested in meeting people who are capable of being promoted.

So if you'd like to share in our continuing unqualified success in the ICL computing world - come to where it's all happening.

How more logical can you be?

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**Data Logic** career opportunities  
The top service and systems people.

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We have immediate vacancies in our European Headquarters, London, for Senior Managers

**KEY SALES MANAGEMENT/ PRICING SPECIALISTS**

Identify aged between 27-35, with experience of all or some of the following Trade Routes:

- NORTH AMERICA
- MIDDLE EAST
- INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

Candidates must have experience of International Shipping, with knowledge of European Business Centres, International Markets and known Shipping "Decision Makers"

Successful applicants can expect a compensation package "in line" with their member positions.

Please send your typewritten cv in confidence to: Manager, Personnel Services, United States Lines, River House, 25, Raffles Road, London EC4A 3DF.

WE ALSO REQUIRE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION PROFESSIONALS

**UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY COMPUTING LABORATORY**

**Experimental Officers (2 POSTS)**

Applications are invited for the above posts to work on a Computer Board funded project to develop software for teaching purposes for a period of two years with effect from the earliest possible date. Experience of use of computers for teaching Mathematics, Electronics or Social Anthropology is highly desirable. Salary will be in the range of £5,600-£10,500.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Administrative Assistant, Mathematical Institute, Canterbury Building, The University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NF. Please quote Ref 8205 on the envelope. The closing date for the receipt of completed applications is Friday, 22nd February, 1985.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Post-doctoral appointment in BIOMORGANIC CHEMISTRY (Temporary)**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants for a two-year appointment in the Unit to undertake research into the interaction of metal-sulphur cluster compounds with living cells, peptides, and the ultimate aim of producing nitrogenase activity. The successful candidate would be expected to have experience in cluster chemistry and/or protein synthesis.

The appointee would commence immediately, but those who expect to complete Ph.D. in the current academic year will also be considered.

Salary scale dependent upon age and experience: either £7,455 - £10,635 or £5,525 - £12,060.

Send cv to the Secretary, A.F.R.C. Unit of Nitrogen Fixation, The University of Sussex, Brighton, BN1 9RQ, from whom further particulars may be obtained. Applications close three weeks after the appearance of this advertisement.

**Library Office Supervisor**  
**c £8,000**

The Wellcome Research Laboratories at Beckenham, Kent, is the main centre for the research activities of The Wellcome Foundation Ltd., a major group of pharmaceutical and chemical companies with headquarters in the UK and a turnover close to £800m.

A new position has been created to facilitate changes in the structure and operation of the Library function. The principal responsibilities will be to supervise the activities of the Library staff on a day-to-day basis, to pay attention to the new technology and its implications and to support the Librarian in the general management of Library affairs. There is ample opportunity to show initiative and to be forward looking.

A comprehensive journal coverage and substantial reference collection are the basis of the service which integrates closely with Information Centres on Site. In addition, the usual functions of a specialised library are undertaken, involving internal and external loans, purchasing of books and periodicals, cataloguing and so on. Blackwell's PERLINE System has been installed and an early task is to exploit the potential of the System to the full.

The person appointed must be suitably qualified in Information Science and Librarianship and have had some supervisory experience. A good appreciation of information technology is desirable. The preferred age range is 25-30 and an outgoing and equable temperament is desirable.

Excellent conditions of employment include twenty-five days' holiday, pension scheme, sick pay scheme, subsidised canteen and excellent sports and social facilities. Assistance will be given with relocation expenses where appropriate.

Please write with full details, quoting reference number WRL/312, to Miss E.M. Josset, Personnel Officer, The Wellcome Research Laboratories, Langley Court, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BS.

**Wellcome**

**unilever research Software Specialists**

**Colworth Laboratory, Bedford**

We are offering an excellent opportunity for able scientists to progress in a challenging post within the largest food research laboratory in Europe. The Colworth Laboratory carries out research for Unilever worldwide, including biotechnology, and requires further expertise in the supporting software team.

Applicants should be first rate engineers, physicists or mathematicians with a good academic record, excellent communication skills and the potential to operate effectively in a competitive, multi-disciplinary environment.

Specific skills required are knowledge and experience of:

- \* Expert systems
- \* Scientific applications of software
- \* Software engineering

The systems in use are based on VAX computers using an Ethernet for 250 terminals and work stations which also links with IBM personal computers.

Salaries will depend on qualifications and experience and will range from £7,500 to around £15,000 per annum. Benefits are highly competitive and include relocation costs where necessary.

Applications forms can be obtained, up to February 15, from:

Miss P. Grayson, Recruitment Manager  
Unilever Research, Colworth Laboratory  
Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1LQ.

Tel: Bedford (0234) 781781 ext 2332  
(Answerphone outside office hours)







## DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

### Based South Cambridge

The development of efficient DP systems cannot be achieved working in a vacuum. Close liaison with users at every stage is essential if the systems are to achieve the desired results. Nowhere is this more important than in Spicers at Sawston, Cambridge, where we are currently engaged in a major systems development programme aimed at creating a high level of operational efficiency and customer service throughout our nationwide distribution operations. We are a £70 million annual turnover company within Reed International and the leading UK wholesaler of office products through a national network of sales and distribution centres. We are also a major manufacturer of high quality stationery products. Throughout our business activities we make extensive use of computers. As our headquarters at Sawston and in our eight regional distribution centres we have twelve DEC PDP 11/44's some of which are being upgraded to VAX. Access is through 200 VDU terminals, and systems cover such areas as stock control, order processing, invoicing, sales, financial ledgers and sales analysis. In order to maintain close user involvement, the business and systems design is retained within the systems department with the programming development being subcontracted to outside software houses. It's a dynamic business environment and with our continuing growth we now wish to appoint additional high calibre DP professionals with a strong user commitment to join our small, but rapidly growing systems department, particularly:

**Development Manager**  
Distribution Systems c.£14,000 + car  
With the introduction of highly sophisticated new systems involving extensive software development, this role will present an outstanding opportunity to a Manager who can develop and maintain a close personal and working relationship with the staff at our regional distribution centres in all aspects of systems application and implementation. It's a role in which you will be guiding, advising and

motivating as well as contributing your own ideas to help achieve optimum operational efficiency. In doing so you will be gaining valuable experience in all aspects of the Company's operations and this will enable you to make a major contribution to the overall development, introduction and running of regional distribution systems. The successful candidate will be responsible for a team of support analysts. Budgetary control is also an important aspect of the job. You will also be accountable for the training of staff and must be prepared to travel extensively in the UK. We are looking for at least five years' experience of PDP, VAX or similar mini-computers in a commercial environment with a strong user-orientated systems background.

### Support Analyst

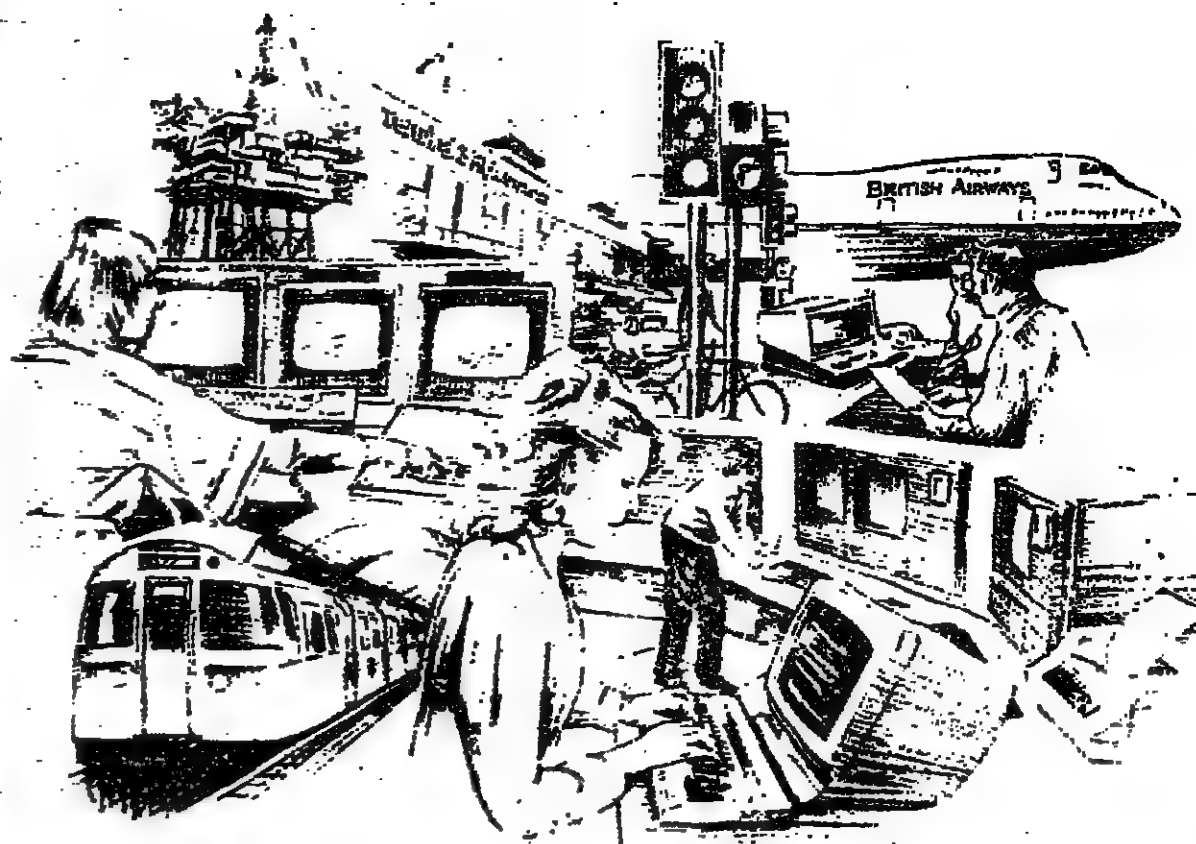
#### c.£11,500

This role involves providing a wide range of support services to the regional distribution centres covering problem solving on software and hardware and assisting in the training of operations in systems work. You will also be closely involved with the development and modifications from design through to implementation. Some travel will be necessary. Candidates should possess an operations and/or systems background and practical experience on minicomputers, preferably PDP/VAX and the necessary interpersonal skills required in a user environment.

Both these positions are open to men and women. They offer exceptional scope for future career development in a sophisticated systems development programme and an attractive benefits package includes generous relocation assistance where appropriate.

Please send a comprehensive cv quoting details of current salary and benefits and stating clearly which position you are applying for, to Terry Smith, Personnel Manager, Spicers Limited, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4JG.

**SPICERS**



## The Quality of the Products reflects the Quality of our People

Our computer systems affect everyday life. We have an unsurpassed record for quality and reliability - FERRANTI ARGUS computers provide reliable 24 hours a day, 365 days a year monitoring and control of steel production, power generation and distribution, oil and gas production, road traffic, food processing, etc. Our mini and micro-processor based systems are used in airports, hospitals and offices. Research, development and manufacture of these products is carried out in South Manchester at our Wythenshawe Division.

Continued success in process management and telecontrol, communications and information processing, together with our expansion into office automation means that we are looking for high calibre staff at various levels. We can offer a stimulating challenge with a wider variety of applications than any other similar business in Europe.

**PROJECT MANAGERS**  
to £17,500  
With considerable experience of managing complex real-time computer projects.

**SYSTEMS DESIGNERS**  
to £17,500  
Design experience in real-time information and communication systems or process management.

**SENIOR DESIGN ENGINEERS**  
to £14,500  
With at least 4 years experience which includes communications systems, firmware development on Zilog/Intel micro-processors and input/output for telemetry equipment.

**DESIGN ENGINEERS**  
to £12,700  
Ideally with at least 2 years experience in some of the above areas.

**REAL-TIME PROGRAMMERS**  
to £14,800  
With experience of Coral, Pascal, Fortran or C.

**MICRO PROCESSOR SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT**  
to £15,500  
Programmers with at least 2 years experience in the development of micro-processor based products, ideally using Intel or Zilog assemblies.

**SUPPORT PROGRAMMERS**  
to £12,700  
Programmers with experience of mini/micro software are required to perform the key role of customer support for our standard products.

**PROJECT ENGINEERS**  
to £12,700  
With the ability to configure equipment for a variety of systems and liaise with outside contractors and customers.

Full details of these excellent opportunities are contained in an information pack which is available by contacting Graham Pepper on 061-491 1446 (daytime) or 061-491 1447 (evenings/weekends) or by writing to him at Computer People North Limited, FREEPOST, Sovereign House, Backport Road, Cheshire, Cheshire, SK3 2YD, quoting reference No. G/147.  
\*We also have a few vacancies for these staff in our office in ABERDEEN.

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Computer Systems  
WYTHENSHAW DIVISION

**WU Computer People North**

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Thornton Research Centre near Chester is one of Shell's major laboratories, and has some 700 employees. We have a worldwide research programme related to energy problems, and we are involved in the development, testing and use of fuels and lubricants which includes fundamental studies of combustion, lubrication and surface behaviour. Other work includes general engineering with special emphasis on materials science particularly as applied to the extraction, handling and application of hydrocarbon feedstocks or energy resources.

A recent **SCIENCE** magazine survey of the world's leading research centres for high calibre scientists.

**Physicists**  
**Physical Chemists**  
**Mechanical Engineers**  
**Mathematicians (Modelling work) and Statisticians**  
**Computer Scientists**

You are probably aged under 35 and hold a Ph.D or have at least a good honours degree with relevant experience in research. You will need to show flair and initiative and to be flexible and willing to learn new skills which could develop your career within Research or into other facets of Shell's business activities.

We offer a competitive salary and assistance will be given with relocation expenses where appropriate. There is also an excellent contributory pension fund. If you are interested, please write or telephone for an application form to:

Shell International Petroleum Company Limited, Recruitment Division, (GA) PNEI/211, Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA. Telephone 01-934 4626.



## Appointment of Deputy Secretary Elect

Owing to the impending retirement of the current Deputy Secretary, applications are invited for the office of Deputy Secretary Elect of the Society and comparable appointment in the Society's associated organisations. Combined salary and fees will total not less than £19,000. In addition there are contributory pension benefits and concessionary mortgage facilities. The administration office of the Society is based at Leicester. Re-location expenses would be paid where necessary.

Applicants, who should be under 50 years of age, must possess professional qualifications of practical value in the business of a Friendly Society or the life branches of insurance. A background of accountancy, investment or administrative experience at executive level would be appropriate.

Written application, giving full particulars of age, marital status, professional qualifications and experience must reach the Society by 1st March 1985 under sealed cover, addressed to: The Chairman, Selection Committee, Hearts of Oak Benefit Society, 129 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NF endorsed "PERSONAL - Deputy Secretary Elect" in the top left hand corner.

The Society is an equal opportunity employer.

### Hearts of Oak

Benefit Society  
in association with  
LONDON ABERDEEN & NORTHERN MUTUAL  
ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED and  
HEARTS OF OAK TRUSTEES LIMITED



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#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN MODERN MANAGEMENT

This is a pioneering programme for managers and managers who require a ten-week full-time course followed by a ten-week project placement in industry. It offers an integrated programme of updating in modern management techniques and the use of micro-computers as a managerial aid.

The next course begins on 11th March 1985. Please write, enclosing a curriculum vitae, to: Dr E. A. Pines, Centre for Computer in Education, 20, Russell Building, University of Salford, Salford M6 6PU.

## TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER LIBRARY

Teach the state of the art in computers or electronics c.£15,000

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Right now, our ideal candidates may be in an educational role; but are just as likely to be systems designers, engineers or support specialists, looking for a more creative outlet for their communication skills. Their specific areas of interest could range from office products to ATE, database management to RF/microwave; they may also be experts in Unix, C, Pascal, Fortran or Cobol.

What they will have in common is a degree or equivalent qualification in electronics or a computer-related discipline, and a minimum of two years' post-graduate experience. Starting salary will reflect experience, and could exceed the level indicated for exceptional candidates; beyond this, salary progression can be rapid.

An individual training programme, probably taking you to the US and/or Europe, will transform you into a product expert on a defined HP range, and develop your teaching skills to the high standard we intend to set. Then it's up to you to build your reputation within this 'showcase' unit - an excellent entry point to the rapid-growth world of HP from which promotional opportunities lead in every direction.

These jobs will be based initially at Warrish, but will move later in the year to our brand-new training centre at Uxbridge. There will also be an important field-based element to the role, providing training and consultancy support on clients' premises. Amongst HP's very valuable range of benefits are a profit-sharing bonus and, if appropriate, generous assistance with relocation.

Either telephone Sue Balchin on 0734 784774 for an application form, or write enclosing your full cv to Damien Fletcher, Hewlett-Packard Limited, King Street Lane, Warrish, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 5AR.

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**HEWLETT PACKARD**

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Seeks applications for the following:  
**NORTH BANGALADESH FIELD DIRECTOR**  
for our diverse rural programmes. A motivating but demanding post. An ability to take responsibility, personal commitment, adaptability. Knowledge of French desirable. Preference given to candidates with working experience in a developing country, particularly in the Indian Sub-continent.  
Date of appointment: as soon as possible  
Contract: 2 years, renewable  
Please reply, in writing, with photo and resume, to: TERRE DES HOMMES, P.O. Box 386, Rue 8700, CH-1050 Lausanne 9, Switzerland

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required for small, exclusive property company, based in Regents Park.  
Good speeds, 100/60 essential, plus ability to work on own initiative. Administrative skills useful. Salary c. £8,000.  
Telephone: 01-935 8305 (No Agencies)

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with good track record required for leading manufacturers of purpose made mirrors for prestigious architectural construction projects in 30+ countries, based in Central London.  
Substantial salary and excellent prospects for the right person.  
Telephone 01-373 1242

### GENERAL

### Queen Mary College (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

#### MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

This new post which should interest a young graduate Accountant with experience in management accounting offers scope for initiative and the opportunity to make a contribution towards developing improved reporting and budgetary control procedures in a large and developing university institution. The successful candidate will also be required to develop and co-ordinate computerised systems both in Finance and in college administration generally.

Salary negotiable to experience on an administrative salary scale with a maximum of £10,355, generous leave and contributory pension scheme.

For an application form and details please do not telephone but write to: Assistant Controller, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E4 3DF.

Closing date, February 15, 1985.

INSURANCE BROKERS, Woking, Surrey. Telephone 0432 50000.



**mid 20s    c.£20,000 + benefits**

Aged in your mid-20s with at least a 2.1 in any pure or applied science discipline, you will already be able to demonstrate an impressive record of achievement in R&D project management. You will bring a creative, innovative

If the challenge of contributing to the success of a progressive, market-leader appeals to you, contact us without delay. Ring or write for an application form to Rob Sawyer, Management Resourcing Manager, Mars Confectionery, Dundee Road, Slough, Berkshire SL1 4JX. Tel: Slough (0753) 73937 ext 4645.

# Mars

**Salaries c£17000**

For further information telephone Reg Heath on 0905 611512 or (evenings/weekends) 0531 3761 or send full personal and career details to:-


**Computer Personnel & Executive Development Associates Limited,**  
Old Bank House, Bank Street, Worcester WR1 2EW.

**Essex** £30,000 package

at the highest management levels is also required.

**Our client intends to attract the best available candidate and the above figure, inclusive of fully maintained vehicle, should be taken as a guide.**

Candidates wishing to apply should write in confidence, enclosing a fully detailed CV, to Michael R Andrews, Price Waterhouse Austers Southwark Way, 32 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SY and quoting reference MCS/7184.

The logo for Price Waterhouse, featuring the letters 'P' and 'W' in a large, stylized font, with the word 'waterhouse' in a smaller font below them. Below the logo, the text 'Business Needs Experts' is written in a bold, sans-serif font.



**Price Waterhouse**  
Business Needs Experts.

# Access

**Data  
Training  
Ltd.**

A telephone call to Miss Eden on 01-778 6060 beforehand would be helpful, but is not essential.

ATA Engineering Process market a range of specialised portable pneumatic tools and accessories for aerospace production together with a unique range of metalworking lubricants which have applications across a wide range of manufacturing processes. We require an experienced Sales Technical Representative with an engineering background and a high degree of self-motivation to manage our Northern territory.

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D. H. LAWRENCE looked on Australia and said that if one had two lives, one would certainly want to spend the second there. Many Australians, naturally, never forgave him. But in a way some of the people in David Malouf's collection of short stories, *Antipodes*, published today, are living second lives there, deeply conscious still of their first, far removed, in Europe or another time. Whether it is through the medium of kept and treasured objects, or less concrete touchstones, Malouf often comes back to this central theme of repositioning, the recovery of experience.

So his fictions evoke not just childhood—though he is very good at that—but also alternative ways of living. His father's family went to Australia from the Lebanon in the 1880s, his mother's emigrated from south London just before the first world war. They came together in Brisbane, this small group of Lebanese fleeing from massacres, with their Maronite Christian traditions, their patriarch who spoke only Arabic and French, and the London family escaping from the new poverty of a financial crash.

Brisbane, says Malouf, is the most conservative city in the most conservative of countries, with a stronger sense of England as the Old Country than any other. Until after the second world war, in Brisbane, with a temperature like Oran, people still ate as they would in London. Whatever the temperature, you ate stews, roast meat and potatoes, and boiled or steamed puddings every day of the week. People who lived there believed the closest place to Brisbane was London.

Australians, says Malouf, have always grown up "with the idea that there is an-

David Malouf talks to Hugh Hebert about his new collection of short stories, which reflect the Australian search for European roots

## A stew of memories under a hot sun

David Malouf: picture by Garry Weiser

other side of the world, whereas you could grow up in France, or Italy without ever thinking that."

The house where he was brought up appears often in his books, a Brisbane timber house, built like most of the others on stilts, its rooms on a level with the lower leaves of trees. Under the house is a kind of open cellar that the stilt turns into a dark forest, "a place where children play games, and have their first experience of childhood sexuality, a place where anything thrown out of the house is stored where you contact the earth." The attic of Europe place, become

the under-houses of Brisbane. Bad things happen there too—in Harland's *Half Acre*, Malouf's last novel, a suicide is found hanging in this underworld.

In *Antipodes*, and some of the other books, the grandparent generation still looks back to an England that really disappeared with the first world war, a war to which Australians came with all the prevalent romantic illusions that he explored in *Fly Away Peter*, about an idealistic bird watcher who ended in the Flanders mud.

Malouf believes that the discoveries made in that first war about the organisation of people on a vast scale laid

the foundations both for totalitarianism and for its antithesis, the welfare state. The war also effectively ended the old relationship between Australia and England.

The second big wave of immigration to the Antipodes after 1945 was different: "It meant that a lot of the children I went to school with had parents who'd been in Displaced Persons' camps. They knew about that central European experience."

"People often say that Australia is a place where tragedy never happens, so we don't have access to or understanding of Europe in this century. I think that's

simply not true. Terrible things can happen in all sorts of places."

The true example he uses in Harland's *Half Acre*, his most powerful and lyrical novel so far, published and highly praised last year, is the discovery only a few miles from the centre of the city of a four-acre timber yard where nearly a hundred derelicts, drunks, vagrants were held (some in chains) in what was virtually a slave labour camp. Some had been bailed out of the local gaol, only to find themselves in another form of captivity. Some were pensioners whose captors drew their benefits; some had simply lost their

will to leave because they had nowhere to go.

No one apparently knew they were there; no one had missed them. They had disappeared as, in Malouf's terms, that other great body of the displaced, the Aborigines, have disappeared. They simply become invisible because people are blind to them.

When Captain Cook landed in Australia he claimed the land in the name of the Crown, and dispossessed the Aborigines for ever. Yet, says Malouf, what is this concept of claiming possession of land, most of which you've never seen, this great continent of emptiness.

"Australia has always been intractable in that way. You can't possess it," Harland is a man from a poor home who becomes a great painter, obsessed with buying back the family's lost land.

"For most thinking Australians what it means to possess land is crucial. Maybe it is for everyone these days—if you live in a city, you're so far from the knowledge of the land. It's not like that in a village."

For about four months of the year, Malouf lives in a village in Tuscany, the rest of the time with relatives in Brisbane, the Australian city from which traditionally there was only one place to go: London.

He came here in the late Fifties, taught, went back to Australia as a lecturer a decade later, then threw it all up to write in Italy six years ago. One of the stories has a Mediterranean setting, but the main fruits of his Italian life go far beyond Harland, looking back to Australia, and before that the odd, cool novella, *Child's Play* (1983), about an Italian terrorist in training, eight and a half in the office—for the assassination of a writer. It has the bleached-out feel of a series of grainy photographs from some security service dossier. As in much of Malouf's writing, the obsession of his characters is what counts.

He draws parallels between the terrorist and the writer/victim. Both work on and through society, but in necessary isolation from it. And as an alternative to Brisbane or London, small village in Tuscany sounds like a pretty good place for isolation.

*Antipodes* (Chatto, £8.95) is reviewed in today's Books page. *Child's Play* (£8.95) and Harland's *Half Acre* (£8.95) are also from the same publisher.

Robin Denslow reviews Van Morrison's new album and the other rock releases

## Them and now

OF ALL the artists who started in the Sixties, only a handful, from Bobby Womack to Dylan and Ray Davies are still producing interesting work, and fewer still can throw back over a career that has left no musical skeletons lurking in the back-catalogues.

Van Morrison now says he has nothing in common with the contemporary pop scene, but his work remains as vital and original as it was when he started out in Belfast with Them. Over the years the R & B has been blended with Irish themes and jazz to create his special fusion of "celtic soul," and his new album *A Sense Of Wonder* (Mercury) is well above average for its range and confidence.

Van himself clearly has no doubt as to where he stands in the artistic hierarchy: the gutsy, swelling opening track *Tore Down A La Rumba* says it all in the title. I can't think of another singer who could get away with a tune like that, but then I can't think of another singer who would go on to tackle William Blake as well as *Moss Allison* and *Ray Charles*, and throw in Irish folk songs, an instrumental especially written for *Moving Hearts*.

The *Moss Allison* song, the jazzy, finger-clicking *If Only You Knew*, shows off Van's skills as an interpreter. It seems to have been a last-minute addition for it replaces a swirling religious piece, *Crazy Jane On God*, that appeared on previous versions of the album. The factuality and Mr. Voss all silver-voiced style, Linda Marlowe as the lady can do little except flash secret smiles to suggest an enigma with very few variations.

Elsewhere, Adrian Mitchell and Mike Westbrook collaborate on *Let The Slave, which includes Blake's The Price Of Experience* read by Van in a hurried, gruff and slightly American-sounding voice, backed by a chorus. As for the rest, there are a couple of gentle instrumentals, and swirling celtic pieces. The *Moss* is currently a very good form.

A Popular History Of Signs: *Comrades (Jungle)*. This is the debut album from a North London band with a serious name and strong line in political funk. It is an interesting if somewhat uneven collection of dance songs with serious lyrics, and gentle, rather mournful pieces about good times and bad. In the style there's a half-synthesiser over a chattering synthesiser, and *Five Towns*, which tackles the idea of Russians and Americans learning about each other.

In the second style, they offer pretty, tinkling pieces like *Father And Son*, which is saved from being mawkish by the hand finding a good melody line just in time.

Joan Armatrading: *Secret Secrets (A and M)*. Bold, brash and brassy, full of displays of vocal technique but often lacking in conviction, this album falls by being aimed obviously at the mass market. It includes plenty of bright, confident songs, some with personal, even sexy, lyrics, but none has the intimacy and charm of all those early albums.

The best tracks are the slower ones. On *One Night*, Joan Armatrading manages to sound sensual despite having to fight against the lush backing, and on *Love* by You she sings even better with only one piano behind her.

Joe Jackson is the accompanist, and a very fine one at that, but even with his help Jackson can't quite rediscover that original, husky, soulful appeal.

Holy Toy: *Panzer And Rabbits (Sonnet)*. Described somewhat hopefully as a "political document of today and tomorrow" expressed through Dadaism and black humour, this is an unsettling, uneven album that mixes patches of gloomy jittery with brooding, pain-sounding effects that would suit the soundtrack of a European art movie.

Holy Toy's leader, Andrzej Nebel, is a Polish exile who settled in Norway, where the band was formed. He sings partly in Polish, partly in English, creating mood pieces that make for decidedly uneasy listening. So there's controlled discord and rattling percussion behind the descriptive piece about a May Day parade, while *Man And Dog* and *Armageddon* deal with nuclear war by using synthesised industrial effects or repeated phrases as jarring as a knife scraped on glass. Elsewhere manic jazz riffs and a folksy violin all end up sounding decidedly chilling.

Red Lorry Yellow Lorry: *Talk About A Strong If* (Rhino). A debut album from the Leeds band who have notched up a couple of hits in the indie scene. The Lorrys are a stand-out four-piece guitar band who mix pounding drums and a wall-of-sound guitar effect with powerful but somewhat oppressive results. Fine in small doses.

### TELEVISION

Hugh Hebert

### Blow-dry In Vegas

THEY comb, they spray, they roll, they tease. A couple of them even get caught in bed with two girls apiece. In *Blow-dry In Vegas* (BBC-1), the Real Lives camera crew followed the British team to the World Hairdressing Championships, and the only thing the barbers didn't do is sing.

They trained for months before. They took off with a mountain of baggage that included everything but their chairs and scissors. The selectors were thought to be a threat to air safety. But the teams hated to leave them behind because it deprived them of the chance to keep their fingers supple by practising on the way. Memo: on long flights, never sit in front of a barber.

What I really wanted to see, though, was not Vegas, which has become pretty familiar on the screen, or the behind-the-scenes shenanigans of the contest. I would rather have seen how hairdressers produce a real gold medal head, and how you know the difference when they have. I write with some feeling, as a lifelong victim of Van Gogh Syndrome, the paranoid fear of having an ear cropped by a man in a white coat jabbering about the Test. Or worse, singing.

To change the subject hastily, *Timewatch* (BBC-2), which is variable but often fascinating in its linkage of historical parallels with what is happening now, came up with an absorbing and funny piece about the origins of the Special Branch. Dickens spoke for England in boasting that we didn't have a political police force. In the middle of the last century any kind of covert surveillance was regarded as damned un-English.

A policeman who observed an indecent offence from be-

hind a tree was reprimanded; for standing behind the tree instead of in the open like a man. When the French police asked the Yard to keep an eye on some of the Communards who fled from Paris in 1871, the embarrassed British first asked the advice of a well known academic in these matters, Karl Marx.

Then they sent a chap in plain clothes to a meeting at the Cannonbury Arms in Islington. Rumbled as soon as he set nose inside door, he was told to go away or else. "I did not return," he reported safely. "In order that a breach of the peace should not take place."

Ten years later, the peace was breached by the Fenians with a wave of bombings, and the Special Irish Branch came into being as the Queen went in fear of assassination. The Fenians then blew up the Special Branch headquarters which had been established, unwisely, over an underground public lavatory.

This led to a panic about public lavatories. An urgent letter was sent to the Mayor of Windsor advising him to close down the bog that shatters on the Castle walls. No end to history really, is there?

### MANCHESTER

Robin Thomber

### Class K

GRAFFITI on the polished parquet floor of the arena stage, the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester comes up against the real hard world of 1985 in Trevor Peacock's new musical. And, while I expect the aerosolised slogans will wash off when the show is over, the real world wins hands down.

Class K is the rubbish bin of a South London comprehensive school, not unlike the one where Trevor Peacock's brother teaches. It's the special unit where the kids whom other teachers find impossible to handle are dumped—they are the no-hopers,

serving their time until July will release them from the time-tabled hell into a world that has no use for them.

But we see this world of hopeless, aimless, futile despair only occasionally through their eyes—and then it is in sudden, brief but intensely vivid flashes of enlightenment accompanied by equals of bitter wit and rumbling rage.

For most of the time Class K's predicament is viewed from the sunlit uplands of the comfortable middle class, worried but warmly-insulated by our double-glazed concern. The kids are presented to us as a string of individual problems, maybe even as individuals with problems, even as symptoms of a sick society.

But the causes of the corruption that turns kids into unmanageable monsters aren't traced beyond the parents—who are just as helpless and helpless, feckless and fierce as their offspring. It's Keith Joseph's cycle of deprivation, riding high.

"Neither the liberals' understanding nor the authorities' firm hand is an adequate answer to these troubled and troublesome children," is what Class K has to say—and it doesn't suggest any answers of its own. What musical could?

But the show's weakness is that, for all its understanding and sympathy, it shows us the kids through the eyes of their teacher—and she's a singularly inadequate do-gooder who would never be put in charge of such a class and if she were would be eaten alive.

"People don't stick things," Judy Lee's Mrs Mackenzie says simply, nicely, encouragingly to the girl she's found a Saturday job in the sweet-scented fantasy of a hairdresser. The reply from Joanne (a brilliantly-bruery performance from Sara Sugarman) is even simpler—"They do."

It's Joanne who is right and that's the awesome problem of this play—it's the street-wise kids who have learned to cope with their world realistically, brutally because it's brutal, and it's us, the well-meaning idealists, who are maladjusted.

It's the kids who give the show its energy and vitality

and its occasional edge of realism. It's cruel to probe for their hopes and dreams which can never be realised. The kids, locked in their self-protective boxes, know that they know that a day in the country is only a day.

The music by Chris Monks and the tropical choreography by Fergus Early will surely ensure that the show is a success in convincing middle-class audiences that they know no more about how the other half lives. And some of the performances—by Crispin Letts, Stephen McGann, Ian Roberts, Cyril Nri, Jeanne Downs and Elaine Jordan—showed us why they live like that. But the script didn't follow it through.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

### COVENT GARDEN

Edward Greenfield

### La traviata



Ileana Cotrubas

IT WAS a safe rather than an inspired idea to revive Verdi's *La Traviata* when Covent Garden abandoned the projected new production of Massenet's *Manon* through lack of funds. This is the production which was counted controversial on its first appearance in 1980. Lucien Visconti updated the action to the 1980s with Beardsley-like sets by Noto Frasca and costumes by Vera Marzot in equally subdued colours.

Over the years this "black and white" production has lost its freshness and its notoriety. This time Michael Rennison has made a determined attempt to get back to

what Visconti intended by using the original production books. Though it lacks the bite of a completely new production—with movement too often busy rather than pointed—elegance is very much part of the nature, matching the generally fleet and lightweight manner of Sir Colin Davis in the pit, conducting his first *Traviata* at the Royal Opera House.

It is fascinating to find that, though Davis makes the piece fairly race along, often with speed not far apart of those in the notorious Toscanini recording, he disguises that with flexibility of line and transparency of texture. One snag is that with three long intervals in what should be a quite short opera, each act takes time to lift off dramatically, and only in the last, after a very measured andante for the prelude, does the drama become riveting.

That is no fault of Ileana Cotrubas, who remains—as on record under Carlos Kleiber—one of the most tenderly affecting Violettas today. The voice is hardly ideal—very few can cope with the conflicting demands of all three acts—and her coloratura above the stage in *Sempre libera* at the end of Act I is bold rather than beautiful. But she cunningly uses even the vulnerability in the upper voice to mirror the touching vulnerability in the character: this is very much a Violetta to believe in, frail and appealing.

As Alfredo, Neil Shicoff, who was an admired student in the Covent Garden Macbeth under Muti, takes on his heaviest role yet at the Royal Opera House and produces appropriately bright, ringing tones, well-projected rather than weighty with fine control of tone over the widest dynamic range. As yet he seems fussed by some of the busy movements demanded of him, and a splendid Del mio bollente spirito in Act 2 had one wondering where he would go next.

Norman Bailey makes a gruff, convincingly forthright Germont, his voice coming better into focus as the evening progresses. Even though the production obscures his grand entry at the key moment of the Act 2 party scene, he makes a powerful presence. Striking among the others is Robert Tear as Asta, a characterfully contrasted tenor to set the drama off by introducing Alfredo to Violetta.

### POLISH CENTRE

Michael Billington

### A Summer's Day

ACCORDING to a programme note for Sławomir Mrożek's *A Summer's Day* at the Polish Theatre in Ham-mersmith, the dramatist has lately abandoned the stereotypical figures of Sixties Absurdism for a greater degree of social reality.

I would never have guessed it from this attenuated piece, which shows two stock, antithetical men exhibiting the whimsical cruelty of life under the watchful gaze of an enigmatic female.

It starts in a part. Unus (Jonathan Hackett), a profound under-achiever, is about to hang himself: Sux (Philip Voss), a suave over-achiever, enters ready to shoot himself. For the former, life is meaningless because he can accomplish nothing; for the latter, it is sterile because he has done everything.

A beautiful woman in silky Edwardian dress swans elegantly past, dropping her handkerchief. Abandoning suicide, the two men pursue her to a café. Unus finds new meaning in life through love, and the rattled Sux is dispatched to buy theatre tickets for a show starring a comedian and tragedian. In a final scene on a beach, Sux allows his non-swimming rival to drown before himself making off with the lady.

I suppose you could argue that the piece depicts the merciless irony of destiny. Sux, who has done nothing in life, achieves death at the moment he least wants it; Sux, who has set his heart on extinction, is kept alive by animal impulse.

But I find it hard to take seriously a play where characters are deployed like figures in a mathematical theorem and where psychological reality is subordinated to neatness of plot. On the one hand, Mrożek seeks to give his play a self-referential importance by persuading us the two men symbolise the comic and tragic figures they are going to see; on the other, he offers a totally simplistic view of women as eternally capricious creatures who thrive on dog-like devo-

tion but always submit to cashish opportunism.

Like a lot of Absurdist drama, the play offers a picturesque trip down a cul-de-sac. And although Mr Hackett is all rumpled ineffectuality and Mr Voss all silver-voiced style, Linda Marlowe as the lady can do little except flash secret smiles to suggest an enigma with very few variations.

### ELIZABETH HALL

Frank Barker

### Jorge Bolet

IN HIS programme of Preludes by Debussy and Chopin, Jorge Bolet provided a rare and most rewarding experience, placing his commanding virtuosity at the service of poetic expressiveness. There was never a suggestion of surface display in the pieces he played, 12 items selected from Debussy's two sets of Preludes and the entire Chopin Opus 28, only a sense of utter commitment to their content.

Yet a phenomenal technique certainly lay behind the keyboard colouring of even the more apparently simple Preludes. Chopin's *major*, a miniature mazurka, or Debussy's *La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin*.

Bolet gave us a magically atmospheric, almost pictorial account of *La Sérénade Interrompue*, one of those truly convincing evocations of Spain which only French composers have been able to achieve. At the other end of the scale the chorale of Chopin's *C minor Prelude* had a wholly classical grandeur.

Chopin's *F sharp major Prelude*, a nocturne in all but name, brought out Bolet's pianism at its most delicate and idyllic, just as Debussy's *Minstrels* allowed him to reveal his. The sheer allure of the playing in both these pieces had one holding one's breath.

When opportunities arose for the pianist to dazzle with his technique, as in Debussy's *Feux d'Artifice*, Bolet met the challenge superbly, but such moments were never allowed to upset the balance of his overall conception of the sets of Preludes which explored, each in their different ways, the possibilities of keyboard expression. And I cannot imagine any more persuasive performance of them than we heard here.

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Top pictures by Frank Martin



Far left: Grey Tricel tube dress with black rose print inserts (also white/black and peach/black) one size, £46 by PX, 57 Endell Street, London WC2. White cotton socks, £4.50 from Grable, 27 Conduit Street, W1. Black hoop earrings from a selection at Fewicks, Bond Street, W1. Black patent lace-ups, £19.99 from Faith Shoes, 192-194 Oxford Street, W1 and branches.

Left: Blue/white Tricel dress with glove sleeves (also blue/black and red/black) one size, £92 from Isabel Martin, 8 Old Court House, Old Court Place, W8. Diamante brooch by Monty Don from a selection at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Liberty, Regent Street, W1; Melrose Osbourne, Beverley, Humberside; Jenny Wren Antiques, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan.

Above: Black/white Tricel dress (also red/black, turquoise/black and yellow/black) sm, £149 by Janice Wainwright to order from Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1; Arana of Colchester; Designer Wear, Altrincham. Diamante earrings by Monty Don from a selection at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Liberty, Regent Street, W1; Melrose Osbourne, Beverley, Humberside; Jenny Wren Antiques, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan. White sheer tights by Pierre Montauz, £4.40 from Grable, 27 Conduit Street, W1. Black suede courts (assorted colours) 3-8, £73 from Charles Jourdan, 39-41, Brompton Road, SW3; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; John Paul Nicholas, Stratford-upon-Avon, Buckinghamshire of Wilmans.

Hair by Debbie Horgan at Daniel Galvin Colour Salons, 59 George Street, W1. (01-486 8801).

## Glamour yarn

Tricel, long neglected by the fashion business, is getting a new image. Brenda Polan reports

RAYON was the first man-made fibre (in textile jargon man-made and synthetic have quite separate meanings) and it was designed impudently to imitate the most expensive and luxurious of fibres: silk. The wood pulp based extruded filament was chopped to staple lengths, spun and then woven and the resulting fabric was given the glamorous appellation, Art Silk.

The Art may have been an abbreviation for artificial but that was not, of course, the way it entered the public consciousness. Today consumer protection legislation and the zealous watchdog organisation, the International Commission for the Promotion of Silk (funded by the People's Republic of China to guard the reputation and prestige of a major export) preclude any such glamour-fishing ploy. Even the unthinking use of "silk" to describe acetate or polyester has been known to attract a minatory note from the Commission.

So, when the Acetate division of

Samuel Courtauld decided that its product, Tricel, a triacetate and a cellulosic descendant of rayon, needed restoring to its image some of the glamour which had seeped away over the years, it knew that such borrowings were out of question. Where then to find some glamour for a yarn whose current list of end-uses is unglaorous to the point of desperation? Tricel curtains half the windows of Britain with mail-order hard-wearing crushed velvet. It renders cosy most of the country's bedroom slippers. It is made into knickers and slaps (Marks and Spencer is the biggest customer for Tricel, followed by the Soviet Union — not a lot of glamour there), clothing labels, cheap blouses, linings for coats and coffins and prayer mats for export to the Middle East.

The problem for Courtaulds is not that they do not sell enough Tricel, it is that they cannot make enough profit on their sales. The product needs a value-added ingredient to push it up into a sector of the market where it can com-

mand a higher price. And that ingredient, business development manager, Chris Calverley has decided, is fashion and, as an example to customers and potential customers, the very best of British design.

"To date," he says, "we have been functioning as a commodity business; we sell a lot of volume but do not make a lot of profit. There is no long-term future in that kind of business. The new development department was started as a measure of our conviction that we can control our own future if we have the will and imagination to do so."

"Working with Lynne Franks as consultant, we are involving ourselves in getting fashion inspiration into a boring technological world. We know that if we come up with something new which the market wants, one of the last things we will be asked is the price. If customers want it, they will take it because they know they can sell it. We are not looking to

expand the quantity of yarn we produce; we are looking to do better business with it."

So Courtaulds commissioned the fabric designer, Rosemarie Moore, to develop a stretchy, textured Tricel jersey which caught the imagination of designers as disparate as Janice Wainwright, Helen Robinson of PX and Isabel Martin. But, as Rosemarie Moore points out, whether the designer is a top ready-to-wear name like Wainwright, a leader of street-influenced young fashion like Robinson or a one-off, to-order, semi-couture business like Martin, the quantities of fabric she needs are small. Such small orders are not attractive to fabric manufacturers used to meeting substantial ones from the likes of Marks and Spencer.

"I think," she says, "that Tricel is an eminently suitable yarn for fashion fabrics as long as the converters can cope with the designer end of the business. That is where new ideas and new fabrics are taken up. Only when the mass-

manufacturers have seen what the high-fashion designers have done with the fabric and been able to assess its acceptability to their market will they take a risk with it. If the converters are impatient for bulk orders and are not prepared to work with the designers, success is not nearly so likely."

To promote some of its more traditional Tricel fabrics, Courtaulds has also commissioned exciting new prints from some of Britain's leading young print designers and design groups. The Cloth (Helen Manning, Brian Bolger, Fraser Taylor and Dave Rand) have splashed large figurative patterns in colourways both sombre and bright on jersey crepe, velour and panne velvet.

Sue Clowes has designed a fine filligree pattern in black and white for printing on crepe de chine, large paisleys printed in matt red on shiny Diel satin and an oriental script pattern on silver panne velvet. These she made up into opulent pyjamas, dressing gowns

and camiknickers. She also used Tricel terry towelling for a satin-trimmed romper suit and dressing gown.

Hilde Smith, who designs the prints for the successful Body Map collection, took a different approach for Tricel, building a collection around four subtle colours: deep purple, olive green, navy and lilac. These all work together in paisleys, plaids and florals. "For a long time," she says, "I have had a passion for working with this kind of fabric because it has so rarely been used to full advantage. Tricel has enormous unrealised potential."

Pazuli Prints (Sury Thompson and Patrick Blesard) love both colour and humour. They have done soft pastel florals on white Tricel crepe de chine and dark strong orange, deep pink and black witty animal prints on panne velvets and velours.

Under the title, the Tricel Designer Print Collection, the designs will be shown to the industry at Fabree, London's

fabric fair, and at Interstoff, the much larger fabric fair held in Frankfurt. This will serve the dual function of exposing the designers' names to a wider market of clothing manufacturers and alerting those same manufacturers to the possibilities of triacetate. The stand should, too, hopes Chris Calverley, provoke some thoughts among converters and printers.

"We will also be taking the collection and we are checking from other young British print designers, throughout Europe, to show to our own customers and potential customers. In this project we are showing the way the market should go. That was never our responsibility. Our customers like Marks & Spencer used to tell us what they wanted. Now they have realised that, with no input from us, they have become boring and they are now saying: 'Show us'."

And, by utilising that most neglected resource, Britain's enormous pool of formidable design talent, he is showing them.



Hilde Smith

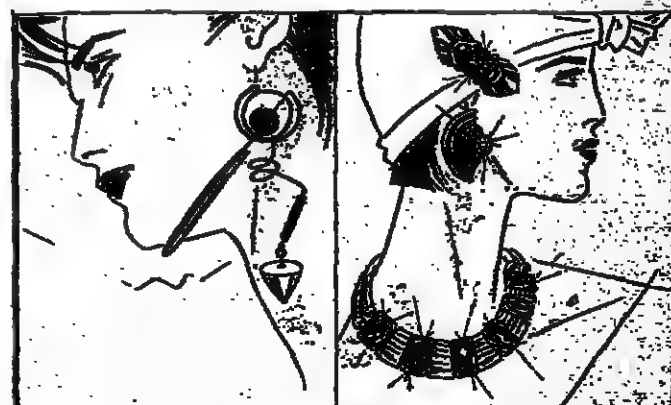


Three members of The Cloth — Helen Manning, Brian Bolger and Fraser Taylor



Sue Clowes

## Style file



Sketch by Jane Tyrrell

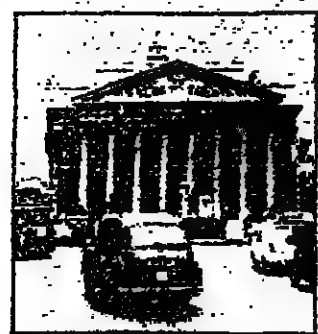
**Accessory points**

MANY a successful business has its roots in a hobby. In Susan Royston's case, her passion for costume jewellery (she possesses a fine collection) teamed with sound business experience, were the starting point for her new accessory and costume jewellery shop, XYZ, at 74 Heath Street, London NW3 (01-794 3242). XYZ has some up-to-the-minute scarves, belts, bags and hats — both affordable and wearable. With the trained eye of an enthusiast, Ms Royston has gathered together the work of leading designers from Britain and abroad. Of special note are exclusive eye-catching pieces such as earrings composed of computer parts and wooden beads from Manila. Illustrated here: silver nickel choker with cut glass blue stones £39; pewter pin with cut glass stones and pewter beads £24.50; single ear mobile £14.50; pair of pewter earrings with diamonds £17.50.

JOHN MORGAN



# Now this nonsense is over, the government should learn to listen to the markets



**NOTEBOOK**  
Hamish McRae

PANIC'S over, chaps, and the Bank of England ought to signal a cut in base rates of 1 per cent today.

Looking at yesterday's spread of money market rates a sharp fall in base rates of anything up to 14 per cent would be justified. The Bank stepped in to stop

that fall, rightly as the outcome of the Opec talks was still unclear. In fact the meeting turned out towards the favourable end of the spectrum as far as Britain was concerned, and so the oil element in sterling's weakness was removed.

Any sterling weakness now should be attributed to continuing uncertainty about the government's finances, and to the high rate of growth in money supply. Both these would suggest that interest rates should remain fairly high as, so to speak, a safety measure. But there is no reason to believe that they need to be above 12 per cent.

Given that a two-stage return to 12 per cent base rates would seem the most sensible course, why not do it all in one jump? If market rates were to continue to fall there would be no logical reason, but there would be a danger if the authorities were to appear over-eager in their desire to cut rates.

The danger is simply that given the government's ability to give wrong signals to the market, and consequently the market's very real lack of trust in the signals it gets, a 2 per cent fall in one bite would resurrect those expensively quelled fears.

The moral of all this? It is a bit early, but clearly interest rates are an extremely powerful weapon on the international exchanges. That is why they cannot be left entirely to market forces, but also why the government should listen to the markets, as well as trying to give them a lead.

rebuilding its capital base, there must be very few people in the City who do not believe that further substantial sales will have to be made if the group is to continue as an independent entity.

One obvious candidate is the 60 per cent holding in the merchant bank, Samuel Montagu. The bank has never been properly integrated into the rest of Midland's business, despite Midland's long period of ownership it is out of sight.

Currently it is plagued by managerial and financial problems which have recently surfaced not only in the departure of its talented chairman, but also in the delay in proceeding further with its integration of stockbrokers W. Greaves.

The delay is perfectly understandable, but it is damaging to Greenwell as well as to Montagu and Midland itself none the less.

But suppose for whatever reason the Montagu sale is not on for the time being, or

at any rate would rank at the bottom of the list of options, what about selling or floating Clydesdale?

Clydesdale is not as attractive a proposition as Bank of Scotland, for its business is rooted more in the industrial west of Scotland than the oil-boasted east. It is much smaller, and it has not brought itself into competition with the big four by the sort of adventurous deposit-taking services that Bank of Scotland has pioneered.

North of the border Bank of Scotland is a good, but conventional branch bank. In England it made a virtue of its lack of branches by becoming a powerful mail-order bank, with its alliance with the Alliance Building Society, and with its high-interest cheque accounts. Clydesdale is a conventional branch bank, and is in any case less than half the size of Bank of Scotland.

But banks have an extraordinary scarcity value Clydes-

dale is not heavily into loans to Argentina, or Californian property.

What it would be worth must be a guess, but £150 million would not be outrageous, may be more. That would not solve Midland's cash problems by any means, but it would help.

## Going too far

THERE IS disorder and dismay all around following the Lords vote on the Government's insolvency bill. Or rather dismay everywhere except in the City, which wanted to scupper the thing and had encouraged the redoubtable Lord Benson to argue the case.

What the Lords did was to fillet not only the provision for automatic disqualification of directors whose companies went bust, but also apparently several other proposals such as the provision where directors who had traded

wrongfully might be made personally liable for the company's debts.

Other bodies, such as the Institute of Directors, opposed the automatic disqualification, and is pleased at this result. But it feels the Lords has gone too far by throwing out a worthwhile and helpful measure to prevent genuine abuses. It quarrelled with the wording of the provisions on wrongful trading. But it liked the idea.

Just why the Lords should do this is unclear. It may have something to do with its new TV-star status. Or it may simply be that an awful lot of members rely on non-executive directorships for their retirement income and don't fancy the idea that they might (for example) be personally liable if some company whose letterhead they had decorated turned out to have been run by a crook.

It certainly puts Mr Alex Walker on the spot. To overturn the Lords would require a great deal of politi-

cal capital. Not to do so would make the Government seem soft on something close to fraud.

## Fair questions

THE LATEST shot in the battle between the current Dunlop team and BTR was a letter yesterday from Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of Dunlop, asking Sir Owen Green, chairman of BTR, what he intended to do with BTR's blocking votes those Dunlop preference shares.

Sir Owen has yet to reply but the evidence is that BTR would indeed vote the Dunlop scheme down at the annual meeting, if ever things came to that.

Still it is a fair question. Meanwhile shareholders will presumably want to know Sir Michael's ultimate intentions about his share option scheme. Should the remain chairman — surely an equally fair question.

## Standard Life takes shares in £155m deal

# Barclays sells Bank of Scotland stake

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

The bid, cloud hanging over the future of the Bank of Scotland was finally removed yesterday when Barclays sold its 24 per cent stake with 25 per cent of the votes for £155 million to Standard Life.

This means that the major block of shares in the Bank of Scotland is now held by an unquoted Scottish mutual insurance company, whose head office is a few minutes walk away in Edinburgh.

The Standard Life general manager, Mr George Macdonald, said: "We approached Barclays shortly before Christmas. It was a 'long-term investment' and he ruled out a full bid. 'We have no present intention of taking a bigger stake in this bank, as the reason is that I don't think it is a good idea to control a bank because you get conflicts of interest'."

He hoped for cooperation in the market place between Standard Life and Bank of Scotland.

Coincidentally, the Department of Trade is about to send out a revised version of its guidance letter to insurance companies on taking stakes in banks. At present it asks to be notified if a stake is to be taken of more than 10 per cent. This is being extended to include stakes in any financial institution.

However, this is not a prohibition but a request for notice, and Standard Life said that the Bank of Scotland is a Department of Trade had con-

firmed that they had no objections to the new move.

The Barclays price was \$50p a share, which compares with last night's closing price of 48p, after 50p during the day. The Barclays chairman, Sir Timothy Bevan, said that in the last 12 months the bank had decided that the stake was strategically inappropriate, and when Standard Life came along it seemed the right opportunity to move. There were no discussions with others.

No big developments were planned to replace the investment in Scotland, though it was "not impossible" it might open a few more branches but any expansion would be modest.

The Bank of Scotland has been expanding aggressively in England without a large branch network through such innovations as home banking in direct competition with Barclays.

The Bank of Scotland contributed £18 million to Barclays profits last year, but the sale price will be fixed, though the remaining £110 million or more will be an important boost to its capital. There will be little effect on profits because the book value of the stake is £122 million. Barclays got the stake in 1968 when it was £100 million. It was merged with the Bank of Scotland, which is completely separate from the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Mr Gwillt would not be specific about the cooperation he envisaged with the Bank of Scotland, although one area is electronic services. Standard



Bruce Patullo

Life already has pages on the Prestel information service through which the Bank of Scotland offers a home banking service. About 85 per cent of Standard Life's business is in England, where it only has 30 branches.

The Bank of Scotland chief executive, Mr Bruce Patullo, said that the staff had shown the ability to create packages with the Alliance Building Society, the Automobile Association and Marks and Spencer, and "and it may not be unreasonable to say we can do it with someone with whom we have a very close relationship." But there would be no question of selling Standard Life products in preference to another Life insurance company.

## Davy 'to claim against Mexico'

By Maggie Brown

DAVY CORPORATION, Britain's giant engineering contractor, is believed to be on the point of making a multi-million pound claim for compensation against Mexico, for time-consuming and costly delays in constructing a large steel plant.

The company said yesterday that it was "not suing" over the \$300 million contract to build a steel plant in Mexico, but it is regarded as a "red hot" issue within Davy.

Long-standing unhappiness at the slow progress of the contract in Mexico was thought to be due to the Mexican civil engineering local partner it has teamed up with, is now hardened into a decision to seek compensation, informed sources have confirmed.

The problems have been discussed at great length with the Department of Trade & Industry over the past 12 months, who are deeply involved because of the project's prestige value, and its effect on the bilateral trading relationship.

The deal was arranged on a government-to-government basis and signed in 1981 when the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, attended the Cancun North-South summit held in Mexico in 1981. It was hailed as the largest project ever put out to tender by the Mexican public sector, and won by a UK firm.

It is additionally sensitive because the UK government provided a £25 million loan of £25 million towards the steel plant's cost, and £195 million of export credits on favourable interest terms.

Davy McKee, the Davy subsidiary expert in supplying steel mill equipment, is heavily involved in this turnkey project on the Pacific coast at Leon, Guanajuato. It has been trying, up to now, to work alongside its Mexican partner.

## Whisky headache

By Geoffrey Gibbs

WITH only seven weeks to go before the Chancellor unveils his Budget proposals the Scotch whisky industry is in a bit of a quandary. It is being urged by the government to work towards an excise duty system that equalises the tax per degree of alcohol on all alcoholic drinks.

The all industry, which has shed almost a third of its workforce over the last five years as world demand has slumped, complains that tax on whisky is far too high. And whisky is the product of a grave disadvantage against other alcoholic drinks.

Mr Donald Mackinnay, chairman of the Scotch Whisky Association's international committee, says that changed market conditions have made it impossible for the industry to carry "discriminatory" excise duty as it has in the past.

## Top sales team for China visit

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Lord Young, the Minister without Portfolio, has assembled a strong team of leading industrialists to help trade on his forthcoming visit to China.

He has signed up 10 of the country's most prominent industrialists for the 12-day visit, which is specifically designed to follow up last month's visit to Peking by Mrs Thatcher, and build on the improving relations between Britain and China.

The industrialists will include Lord King, reportedly Lord Weinstock, chief executive of GEC, will join the team.

They will be joined by Sir Eric Sharp, chairman of Cable & Wireless; John Glascock, of British Aerospace; Roger Kinnear, chief executive of Davy McKee; Sir Duncan McDonald, of Northern Engineering Industries; Dennis Jackson, of Rolls-Royce; John Swinglehurst, of Sedgwick



Lord Young



Richard Giordano



Sir Eric Sharp

Group; and Harry Harrison, of Siemens Engineering.

There is also speculation that Lord Weinstock, chief executive of GEC, will join the team.

Lord Young said he was glad that such a distinguished group of businessmen were joining the mission. "I wanted to put together a group that would demonstrate the technological strength of British industry in some of the fields to

which China's economic plans give highest priority."

The high-level trade mission will be hoping to clinch several big new orders for British industry and help the Government demonstrate that it is tackling unemployment. A high priority is likely to be given to clinching GEC's \$500 million orders for the Guangdong power station, and British Aerospace is hoping to clinch an order for its 146 commuter jet.

"I am taking over a trade mission of salesmen," Lord Young said. "It demonstrates that if we are to get unemployment down, we have to go out and earn our own living and this is one way of doing it."

Lord Young arrives in Peking on February 28, and will travel to Shanghai and Canton before ending his visit in Hong Kong.

## Chemical doubts remain

By James Erlichman, Chemicals Correspondent

Britain's chemical industry leaders faced a grilling yesterday for failing to demand improved safety precautions for the UK in the wake of the Bhopal disaster in India.

The industry's senior spokesmen also refused to disclose the location of at least 140 chemical plants in Britain which have been labelled as particularly hazardous under new EEC-inspired regulations.

"Publishing such a list does not achieve anything," said Mr Martin Trowbridge, director general of the Chemical Industries Association. "It only creates concern without making anything safer."

The association called a press conference yesterday to improve its public image and to introduce its new president, Mr John Pitts, the chairman and chief executive of the Tioxide Group. Greenpeace and other environmental pressure groups maintain that efficient plants, toxic and a competing plant downstream have ruined 17 square miles of the Humber estuary.

No new safety warnings needed to be issued to member companies because the UK chemicals industry was already vigilant and had one of the best safety records in the world, Mr Trowbridge said.

This may be true, but an explosion at the Coalite plant in Boleyn released dioxins into the air in 1983, and 29 lives were lost when the Flixborough plant near Southampton exploded in 1974. Mr Pitts said: "We cannot guarantee that all C.I.A. members are following safety guidelines which will prevent major incidents in the future," but the chances of such a tragedy in Britain "were remote."

The chemicals industry in Britain should be able to afford whatever new safety precautions are necessary. Sales are valued at 7.5 per cent.

Improved profitability and cash flow strengthened balance sheets, and the industry contributed £1.9 billion to the balance of payments.

## New uncertainty on Sleipner gas deal

By James Erlichman

Reports that the Government is about to cancel the British Gas £25 billion Sleipner deal with Norway were strengthened yesterday when it gave approval for a new £200 million gas complex off the Norfolk coast.

If the purchase of Norwegian gas is scrapped, the Government will have to show that Britain's needs into the next century can be met from emerging domestic reserves.

The new fields, known as the Thane complex, are to be developed by Arco Oil and first production is planned for late 1988. The timing of the announcement will be a blow to the Government's claim that the gas industry is a pillar of the economy.

## Record US trade deficit

By Peter Large and Maggie Brown

The United States suffered a record deficit of \$123.3 billion on its merchandise trade last year as the strong dollar boosted imports and hurt exports, the Commerce Department reported.

It said that last month's deficit in the trade of goods ranging from farm commodities and raw materials to oil and

enough gas for Britain.

But doubts that this can be achieved were again raised yesterday by Labour's energy spokesman, Mr Stan Orme and Mr Ted Rowlands. In a long letter to the Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, they demanded to know why British Gas should be blocked from completing the Sleipner deal (which will only replace existing gas imports) unless there was certain proof that consumers would not face shortages in the decades to come.

Labour's desire to champion both consumers and the nationalised gas industry are hampered, however, by the fear that the purchase of Norwegian gas would compromise the jobs of workers in the UK gas and offshore construction industry.

## Computer dealers' hopes crash

By Peter Large and Maggie Brown

Dealers in home computers have become ready victims of a double Catch 22.

The UK Computer Retailers' Association admitted yesterday that demand has been so high that some retailers have accepted deals from manufacturers which give them no protection against manufacturers' price cuts — and which include guarantees on faulty machines that fall far short of customers' expectations.

In both cases the dealer has to bear the immediate brunt, or lose a customer.

This seems, however, to have been only a minor factor in the collapse of Prism, the London-based distributors of Sinclair computers, which had

unsuccessfully tried to diversify into computer software, robotics, publishing, and business computers.

The receiver, Mr Stephen Adamson, of accountants Arthur Young was yesterday talking to potential buyers of the firm, which has a £50 million-a-year turnover. The rival Sinclair distributor, Percy Blood, confirmed it was interested in buying the Sinclair sales side, during 1984 Prism is thought to have seen its market share of Sinclair products cut from 40 per cent to about 20 per cent, as Terry Blood, appointed as an alternative, built up business.

What seems to be happening is that the price-cutting in the home computer market, led by Sinclair, is leading to a fight

## Lawson warns on rates

By Christopher Huhne, Economics Editor

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, was encouraged last night by signs that the money markets now accepted that he meant what he said about battering down the hatches against inflation.

Though it appeared that some of the recent rise in bank interest rates may be about to reverse itself, the Chancellor had effectively warned in a speech at lunchtime that no quick and full reversal of the recent rises in interest rates could be expected.

Speaking to the Newspaper Society, Mr Lawson said that in due course the storm would blow itself out but that he intended to bring the money supply figures "well within" his target ranges now that the falling pound was injecting an inflationary impulse into the economy.

Since the main money measure is now near the top of its target range, the Chancellor was effectively warning that both interest rate and budgetary policy was likely to remain tight.

He said that a significant fall in sterling "will itself tend to ease financial conditions and inject an inflationary impulse into the economy, making it all the more important to keep the monetary aggregates well within their target ranges."

"This was, he added, the 'mirror image' of what had happened in 1980-81 when the exchange rate strengthened significantly."

Mr Lawson said that he had never believed in intervention in the foreign exchange market as a way of life, still less as a substitute for firm fiscal or monetary action. But at the right time concerted intervention could usefully establish two way trading in markets dominated by expectations of future currency movements.

## Electricity boards criticised

By James Erlichman

The way area electricity boards collect revenue from their customers was strongly criticised yesterday by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Methods of collection vary from board to board and the Commission, which was ordered to investigate by the Department of Trade and Industry, said there was no excuse for the lack of standardisation.

The result was that the Electricity Council and the four area boards under review had no adequate way to measure control revenue collection costs.

"We therefore recommend that the Electricity Council and all area boards should undertake a drive to achieve quickly a range of more standardisation on best practices than exists at present," the Monopolies Commission said.

The investigation into the efficiency of the East Midlands, South Eastern, North Eastern and South Western area boards began in April last year.

The Commission highlighted the boards' failure to publish enough information about standing charges and the cost of tariff collection. But the boards were also criticised for

being slack in identifying "persistently slow payers" and for failing to get them to pay promptly.

"Social considerations" the Commission said, should not be allowed to mask the wider problem of overdue collections. Better use should be made of payment schemes to help customers who have difficulty.

But the Commission recommended that the Government should consider strengthening the Electricity Council's power over the area boards if, after two years, "inadequate progress has been made in achieving standard practices throughout the industry."

## Redman sale to repay debt

By Maggie Brown

A five-month attempt to draw up a financial reconstruction plan for Redman-Hecman, the Worcester-based high technology test equipment and control engineers, has failed.

Instead, the publicly quoted company, whose shares were suspended yesterday at 15p, is being forced to sell off its core businesses representing two-thirds of its turnover, to repay its bankers and stave off receivership.

Babcock International, the international engineering group expanding into up-mar-

ket engineering areas, is acquiring Redman's Froude Conside and Froude Engineering companies, for cash. These supply hi-tech test equipment to the motor and energy industries, such as vehicle dynamometers for a range of automated testing plants.

From this radical deal which will be spelled out in a detailed circular along with Redman's results to September 30, Redman-Hecman will receive a "very significant cash injection," though no price is being discussed. This will pay off the bankers, led by the Midland.

But it will leave Redman, one of Britain's most specialised and internationally recognised firms within its sector, as an inconsequential engineering group with a trading estate property portfolio.

Better use should be made of payment schemes to help customers who have difficulty. But the Commission recommended that the Government should consider strengthening the Electricity Council's power over the area boards if, after two years, "inadequate progress has been made in achieving standard practices throughout the industry."

The last balance sheet, for 1983, showed Redman-Hecman's overdrafts at £6 million, against shareholders funds of £5.9 million.

## Hillsdown again in search of takeovers

By Mary Brasler

Hillsdown Holdings, the food processing group which has developed into one of the UK's largest private companies through a series of successful acquisitions, is set to return to the takeover trail this year armed with the £28.3 million proceeds of selling its shares to the public.

Hillsdown makes its long-awaited public debut next month via an offer for sale by tender of just under a quarter of its equity, at 100p a share. The company, which has been built up by Mr David Thompson and Mr Harry Solomon, and now includes household names

like Buxted chickens, Lockwoods, and Ross poultry, arrived on the Stock Exchange with a minimum price tag of £180 million.

The directors retain control with a 57.1 per cent shareholding but are raising £9.3 million by selling part of their stake. Mr Thompson owns the lion's share of that holding, worth nearly £100 million.

Total group profits are estimated at £18.9 million for 1984, on sales of £980 million. The company says shareholders could expect a dividend of at least 2.5p a share. Prospects for growth in 1985 and beyond are "excellent," say the directors.

## Midland stays on target

By our Financial Staff

Midland is two thirds of the way towards a target of reducing its balance sheet by £2 billion, through better management of the group's treasury.

This estimate was given yesterday by Mr Ernest Butschke, group treasury chief executive, who also revealed that he had been appointed to the board of the 60 per cent owned subsidiary Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank.

This could mean greater control by Midland over Samuel Montagu's money market activities, leading to keep it in line with group strategy. The relationship between the two is

still under heated debate within Midland.

The reduction in the group balance sheet has been done by more efficient management of the group's activities in the interbank market, through central coordination which cuts out duplication. As the bank's lending is mandatorily tied to its capital, the reduction of about £1.5 billion frees capital for use elsewhere in the group. The new drive for efficiency in the treasury department also takes in the troubled subsidiary in California, whose activities are also being more closely coordinated.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

RECEIVERS called in to Consult International, the private company of deposed Espley Trust chairman, Mr Ron Shuck are trying to sell a 27 per cent shareholding in Espley Trust for more than £14 million of debts run up by Consult. Espley is still struggling for survival and the receivers admitted yesterday that it would be difficult to place the share but discussions were continuing. The Department of Trade's official receiver is also looking into Consult's affairs for evidence of fraud.

A MAJOR reshuffle of top executives is expected shortly at Airbus Industrie, the European jet-makers where Britain is a 20 per cent shareholder. Airbus chairman eBnard Lathiere and director general Roger Betteille are expected to step down early next month and be replaced by figures from the German and French aerospace industry.

STC YESTERDAY announced that it is the first company in Europe ready to market digital microchips made from gallium arsenide instead of silicon. Gallium arsenide is a material in which electrons move more quickly than they can in silicon, but the technology is still in manufacturing terms, at the stage the silicon chip was nearly two decades ago. STC's chips were made at Paignton in Devon.

JOHN MORAN



# Your pay's going up, but at whose expense?



ECONOMICS

Christopher Huhne

THE renewed rise in bank interest rates to a minimum of 14 per cent does not look as bad, given our relatively recent history of rates even in the upper teens, as it does if you take account of the rate at which prices are increasing.

The real interest rate — after allowing for price rises over the last year — is now about 10 per cent for most borrowers, a level which as far as I can see has not been matched since 1922 when prices fell by 19 per cent but bank rate never went below 3 per cent; a real interest rate of 22 per cent.

Nevertheless, it seems unlikely that this dramatic tightening of monetary policy to protect the pound is going to provoke a new recession. As the American economy has shown, growth and even increasing investment can be compatible with extremely high real interest rates.

What is now clear, however, is that last autumn's forecasts of growth will have to be revised down if the rise is sustained. Until Monday, the net effect of the devaluation and the interest rate rise since the Treasury's autumn forecast was marginally positive for growth and employment. That balance has now swung the other way, with even less prospect

of generating a strong enough recovery to bring down unemployment.

The only shred of silver lining in this rather ominous cloud is that both the interest rate rise and the renewed and possibly terminal negotiations on the miners' dispute have come at a point of maximum influence in the wage round. Up to 10 per cent of wage bargainers settle between August and December; a further quarter in the three months to March; and around 65 per cent until next August. So most are still to come.

This is not to argue that either the interest rate rise or the perceived drubbing of the miners are likely to lead to a collapse of wage and price expectations, and hence new wage moderation which would allow more growth within the Treasury's targets.

The gossip in the Treasury corridors has off and on suggested that a miners' defeat might have the sort of salutary effect that the sacking of the air traffic controllers in the United States was supposed to have had. The only snag is that the American opinion poll — and other data — show no influence on wage and price expectations from the breaking of the controllers' union.

The end of the strike might, though, dampen what appears to be a rising trend in settlements, which can only compound the Treasury's problems in keeping inflation on a downwards track given the increase in unit labour costs (largely due to a slow-down of productivity) and the effect on import prices of the falls in sterling.

True, little can be inferred from the Department of Employment's earnings series, which includes overtime payments and so forth. But both the CBI Databank of manufacturing settlements and the experts at the Independent Incomes Data Services, who compile a pay chart of settlements, suggest that the trend

is upwards. The average of the CBI's figures for the last six months of 1983 was 5.65 per cent, compared to 6.15 per cent in the last half of 1984.

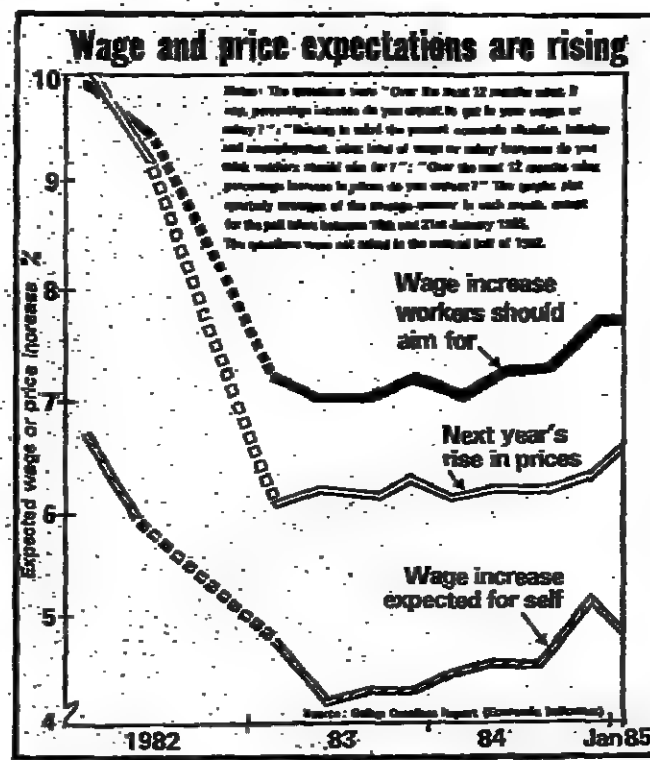
Another indication, though curiously unused by economic forecasters, is the opinion poll data on what people actually expect their wage increases to be; and what they think workers should aim for; and what they expect prices to rise by over the next 12 months. This private Gallup data, shown in the graph, is rather volatile from month to month, but does seem to point to a broad rise in expectations on all fronts. Prices are now expected to rise by 6.6 per cent, and the wage target appears to be 7.6 per cent.

Enough, for the moment, of the real world. Let's look at some theory. Yesterday, the Treasury published its paper on the link between real wages — wages after allowing for price changes — and jobs. The paper summarises recent research, but its kernel is the Treasury's own contribution of several different computer runs on its model of the economy.

The simulation which it prefers suggests that an initial 3 per cent wage cut — ie wages grow, say, by 4 per cent instead of 7 per cent — would reduce prices by 1 per cent, and hence real wage costs by 2 per cent. After four years, this is held to create about 300,000 jobs.

The main problem with this scenario is that it is not credible outside a formal incomes policy — or a tax on inflationary pay increases — of the sort the Chancellor abhors. As one wag put it, the Treasury has jumped from the "what if" school of economics to the "if only" school. There is no sensible explanation of how such wage moderation might come about in the framework of present policies.

But let's play along with



the Treasury's dreams: even if such a real wage fall were to occur, it is clear that the Treasury has wilfully exaggerated the efficacy of real wage cuts in part by the nature of the policy framework it sets out and in part because of some contentious elements of its model which lack supporting evidence.

Roughly a third of the extra jobs in its preferred simulation result not from a real wage fall as such but from what most economists would call a budgetary relaxation — a refation.

This happens because the Treasury assumes that borrowing takes a constant share of national output, but rising output reduces public spending on the unemployed and hence provides room for tax cuts.

So does the fall in the public sector's wage bill. There is no good reason why the Treasury could not em-

bark on this budgetary relaxation at the present or even a higher rate of inflation: all they are telling us is that if we behave ourselves over pay rises, they will give us more output and jobs. If not, they won't.

To be fair, the paper also contains a simulation of what would happen if there was a real wage cut of 2 per cent but interest rates, tax rates and real public spending were held constant: a more conventional view of unchanged policy.

But this scenario is even more unrealistic, for wages have to fall by nearly 7 per cent to maintain the real pay cut as prices fall too. If you can believe this then the result would be to add about 200,000 jobs after four years.

Here, though, you get the expected Keynesian result in the short term that real wage cuts would so reduce take-home pay (which is not,

unlike in the first simulation, boosted by tax cuts) that national income would fall before recovering as we gained competitiveness and firms substituted labour for machines in producing more output.

Even this result exaggerates the beneficial effects through what the uncharitably disposed might call model-rigging. One of the weakest parts of the model is the corporate sector — and hence how it spends its extra income as real wages fall. Yet this is crucial in boosting the employment effect, as even the published version of the paper concedes.

The original unpublished version of the paper which went to the Treasury's group of academic consultants contained a paragraph, since excised for political reasons, which admitted that the criticism of the corporate sector of the model carried some weight.

"The criticism is," the uncensored paper said, "that the simulation results depend critically on a system of adjustments which is entirely arbitrary and has no empirical basis."

"It has to be admitted that the empirical backing for this system of adjustments is not strong; after all, the main reason why such effects do not appear in the individual expenditure equations is that empirical research has been unable to establish their existence." In other words, the Treasury is guessing.

The public relations nature of this exercise is also underlined by another interesting deletion from the original, which claimed that Professor Mike Artis "effectively cleared the Treasury of any charge of crude faddism of its results" in its previous simulations of National Economic Development Council.

The gentleman in question is, of course, a leading expert on incomes policy, and has strongly objected to his interpretation of his work, with the result that he has revised version says only that he "demonstrated that much of the misunderstanding had arisen as a result of what were at the time recent revisions to key model equations." Ahem, quite so.

Where does all this leave us? In essence, the broad thrust of the Treasury's work in the long term seems to tally with independent research, but its claims have been exaggerated due to the fallings of the model. Moreover, the morals to be drawn from the work are not necessarily which the Treasury public relations exercise has flagged.

The implication is that fiscal relaxation and/or real wage cuts can create jobs, but it is a lot easier to understand how a reduction might happen than it is to project the Treasury's real wage cuts. Secondly, two simulations also show that using the money released by wage moderation on more public spending would have a greater effect than income tax cuts.

Thirdly, the Treasury seem to be making a case for the need to intervene in the labour market — but it had not yet persuaded the Chancellor to follow that logic to its necessary conclusion on incomes policy.

## Lawson must cut domestic consumption



INVESTMENT

Robin Stoddart

AFTER the international vote of no confidence in sterling that forced real interest rates up to an all-time peak, policy will be judged by action, not words. Since then, the Chancellor is flat on his face. His forthcoming Budget must put a curb on domestic consumption if Britain is to remain economically independent.

At present, the Arab oil producers are trying to limit the output of the type that is being produced from the North Sea, without any chance of a comprehensive and lasting agreement binding on all exporters. So when demand falls in the spring, the price is likely to drop quite sharply.

Britain's insistence on maintaining maximum production will come under increasing pressure whether government failure or through the operating companies. In any case, a rise of only about 4 per cent is possible this year — under half of last year's increase.

With luck and better management, the period when the pound has fallen nearly as far as the dollar oil price is now over. At the current dollar exchange rate government revenue will be boosted by another couple of billions a year, but it cannot be relied on to last. Tax reductions based on the assumption that it will, would be the height of irresponsibility.

In such straitened circumstances all of the emphasis must be on export-led recovery by manufacturing industry. Most of the signs are reasonably favourable except in the motor and metal-working sectors.

Confidence in the Government is obviously at a low ebb, and will remain so as long as interest rates have to remain much higher than elsewhere. At the same time, an early reduction is hardly possible while sterling remains within a point or two of its lowest value against the basket of foreign currencies. Bad news on the money supply or inflation fronts would immediately put the pound under pressure unless a more stringent financial policy than has been apparent in recent months is pursued.

With its medium-term strategy exposed as a sham and relative failure, as underlined rather than covered up by the privatisation issues, the Government needs to maintain economic growth by other means. Tax increases, as well as reductions

for those just over the tax come tax threshold, are required. Public sector spending, except on defence, should be rising rather than falling if the burden of debt imposed on the next generation is not to be compounded by a decayed infrastructure. It has risen, but in a wrong area, but a debt and indiscriminate defence outlays, new taxation must be accompanied by a general lowering of expectations.

After a good run for an except the worst-off quarters of the population, consumer spending will have to stabilise, or fall, preferably with out too much commerce other than retailers. This is where import substitution comes in. So far there has been little evidence of it happening apart from a modicum of optimism and heavy commitment in the textile sector.

All pretence that an industrial country can afford to go on importing most of its cars, video equipment and other domestic and industrial machinery should have been swept away in the latest debacle. Although the falling pound was possibly beginning to curb the growth of imports last year, commodity and other import prices are now rising in sterling terms.

The leeway provided by indigenous oil has been largely frittered away rather than used to strengthen reserves. If the miners' strike ends soon, the comfortable trade surplus achieved in the final quarter of last year might be maintainable.

Apart from a switch to the paper, it is clear that a further recovery in capital investment. Whereas increased spending on cost-cutting equipment is occurring, capacity increases are still very rare and the food and clothing industries and job losses has shown little or no let-up. The better trend of output and orders reported by industry is still well short of the upturn being experienced in most other industrial countries. Still, on the basis that Britain is leading Europe in the recovery.

In the absence of any direct control over consumer credit and the volume of bank lending, the authorities are having to rely on high interest rates and sales of government stock and other debt certificates to keep the lid on inflation. Higher mortgage payments impose a blunt and unselective squeeze on high street spending.

Fears that interest rates might have to rise yet higher, from crisis to super-crisis level, were hardly rational when such a panic step might well have been self-defeating, as well as contrary to the whole international trend. Short-term interest rates have risen enough to permit a reduction in base rates, but the net result will not be strong enough to withstand more than a gradual decline unless the dollar goes into reverse.

Gills have recovered their poise but the attraction of index-linked issues, particularly the 1988 issue, has increased more as a result of the sterling crisis.

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## The fears behind the front page headlines

Christopher Hope on our preoccupation with nuclear accidents

NINETEEN eighty four was a bad year for man-made disasters. Bhopal, of course, "the worst man-made catastrophe short of war." But also the Mexico City gas explosion, the Brazil pipeline fire and the Taiwan pit disasters, all of which killed hundreds. Remember those last three? Don't be surprised if you don't, for none of them made the front page.

Looking at all the front page stories on human health and safety in the energy industries and noting the underlying life-threatening incidents which prompted them gives us some idea of what accidents were felt to be of greater public concern than these three tragedies in 1984.

In the Guardian last year, for example, each incident in either the coal or oil industries merited one front page story a total of 13 incidents and stories for coal and 17 for oil. But the nine incidents in the nuclear industry provoked no fewer than 24 Page One stories — an average per incident of 2.7.

A persistent complaint of the nuclear power industry is that more attention is paid to nuclear incidents than to those in the competing fossil fuel industries. For 1984 at least, this complaint appears to be upheld. Whereas none of the coal or oil incidents prompted more than one front page story, the nine nuclear incidents amassed 24 stories between them. How come?

In the case of the coal industry, all the front page reports in 1984 were related to the UK coal strike. On three occasions deaths were involved, of two pickets and a taxi driver. The other 10

stories reported injuries to police and pickets varying from two to 79 at one incident. Of course 1984 was not a typical year for the UK coal industry. Although pit disasters continued round the world, one of the few beneficial side effects of the coal strike was that none occurred in the UK. So it is probably fairer to turn to the oil industry for a baseline against which the nuclear stories can be compared.

Ten of the oil stories concerned casualties sustained or lives put in danger supplying oil from the war-torn Gulf region. All but one of the stories related to attacks on shipping. Only once were casualties mentioned, with 11 killed on a ship supplying Kharg Island. Strangely on two other occasions when attacks on shipping in the Gulf led to deaths, including British, the stories were run on inside pages.

Exactly half of the 24 nuclear stories covered seven separate topics, including waste dumping plans, the sinking of the Mont Louis and the safety of the planned Sizewell reactor. No casualties were reported in any of these incidents.

That leaves 12 stories dealing with a single subject, the Achilles heel of nuclear power in 1984, the waste reprocessing plant at Sellafield. Two separate life-threatening incidents were involved. The first concerned the operation of the plant in earlier decades and the possibility that this had caused excess cancers amongst the local population.

In 1984 this prompted four front page stories. One dealt with compensation and three with the publication of the Black report. It is still unclear whether any casualties over this period can be blamed on Sellafield.

The second incident was an unexplained release of radioactivity into the sea in November 1983. In 1984 this received eight front page stories.

The release of radioactivity caused no immediate casualties, and no individuals are known to have received a dangerous level of radiation dose. The incident itself also occurred six weeks prior to the start of 1984.

The only other accident so able to command front page attention in 1984 was the tragedy at Bhopal, which stayed on the front page for over a week in December. Back in 1983, a Guardian leader explained the difference between nuclear and fossil fuel incidents thus: "In fossil fuels, the accidents are accidental and in theory avoidable. In nuclear power, if they exist at all, they are inevitable and statistically built in."

The history of the Sellafield discharge throws some doubt on this explanation: we would not expect government to regard damming management and production of a company for an "inevitable" hazard. But then what other explanation can there be for Sellafield getting as much attention as Bhopal and infinitely more than fossil fuel disasters that kill hundreds? Can it be simply that nuclear incidents stay on the front page because of fear and, as a result, because they are more page news?

Christopher Hope is a teacher at the Department of Fuel and Energy, University of Leeds.











SOCCE

David Lacey

# Seats not the answer

All-seater stadiums are not the answer to footballing problems, according to a report published yesterday by the Football Trust and based on a study of Coventry City's experience after they had become the first and so far the only English League club to do away with terraces.

The report has been commissioned by the Sociology department of Leicester University and examines the efforts at Highfield Road following the switch to all-seating in 1981. It concludes that the all-seater stadium seems little more than an expensive mistake and should be a warning to clubs such as Luton and Oxford United who are planning to move to similar accommodation.

Much of the evidence is based on a survey of Coventry fans which drew responses from three thousand spectators. The consensus of opinion was that the supporters felt they had not been consulted over the change to seating, that the new system led to a greater risk of becoming involved with hooligans, and, in at least one instance, made going to watch matches less fun.

A chartered surveyor told how he and a dozen friends had stood in the same place for several years because "a last-minute decision to attend could be made and we could not get in the same spot". The introduction of seats and all-ticket matches had made this impossible and nine of the group no longer went.

Another Coventry supporter, also a surveyor, claimed that the atmosphere in one of the new seated enclosures had "degenerated into a sterile and fear". A 55-year-old company director felt that "there must be some distinction between hooliganism and high spirits" and considered Coventry's switch to be "over-policed".

The report provides a statistical analysis of attendance and arrests before and after the change to seating and concludes that while both this and the club's policy of flexible pricing did reduce the number to some extent "even the introduction of the same few visiting contingents to cause local problems".

In 1983 plans were announced to re-open a section of the old Kop terrace for standing supporters. Some "for which is reserved to cause local problems", remarked Jimmy Hill, "the Coventry chairman, is almost spat out at Coventry".



HOLDING THE MIDDLE GROUND: Chris Cowdrey keeping his place at No 6

Matthew Engel in Kanpur

# Sticking to a winning plan

## CRICKET

DESPITE competition from the Bourda Ground, Georgetown, and the Iqbal stadium, Faisalabad, the Green Park stadium at Kanpur may well be the most unpopular of all regular Test grounds.

The Indian journalists and the old hands have been saying all tour that this was going to be a ghastly week: a polluted city, cold and rainy in winter, with a rotten pitch was thrown into the litany as well.

But as soon as you anticipate something on this tour, the opposite happens. England arrived in town yesterday to find bright, clear sunshine, the hotel started-up, excellent nets and a pitch that looked as firm and fair as any other in India. David Gower quickly announced an unchanged team and everyone headed for an early night before the final act of this twisting series started this morning. It still might be best not to get too lyrical about Kanpur just yet.

The changes England might have contemplated were hardly even discussed when the selectors met briefly before dinner last night. They could have made a couple of defensive moves, bringing in Moron, as a potential long-innings batsman,

instead of Cowdrey, or Ellison for Cowdrey. But Gower's nature rebelled against the idea of trying to sit too firmly on the lead. "Whatever happens we wanted to be positive, play like we did in Madras," he said.

The principle is a fine one: cricket history is littered with examples of teams looking for a draw and getting rolled over in the process. Neither changes would have altered the balance significantly. The big worry now must concern Gower himself.

He had a long session in the nets yesterday to make up for one he missed on Tuesday because of his eye trouble. And though he said there had been some improvement as a result of his vitamin tablets, he was unable to give an absolute assurance about his health.

"I don't need glasses or anything," he said. "But they are not functioning together quite the way they should." Test and County Cricket Board official, Peter Lush, yesterday denied suggestions that England's tour to the West Indies next winter was in jeopardy. Lush's statement followed reports from Karachi in which Mohammad Rafi Nasim, the Pakistan Board's secretary, claimed that they had been banned out by the West Indies for a trip to the Caribbean if England's tour was cancelled.

# Jenny banks on Corbiere

## D RACING

Chris Hawkins

Burrough Hill Lad heads the Seagram Grand National weights with 12st 5lb and is the best handicapped horse in the race, but its trainer, Jenny Pitman, considers him a very doubtful runner and will again be placing her faith in Corbiere.

"I'm disappointed with Corbiere's weight of 11st 10lb. I thought 11st 7lb would have been a fair weight. He's not getting any better or younger and it took him a long time to recover from last year's race when he finished third with 12st, said Mrs Pitman.

"But he's much more likely to run than Burrough Hill Lad. I wouldn't ask any horse to go and beat a half mile round Aintree with more than 12st. You should be round the back when the beaten horses come in. You have to pick up the pieces."

The disappointment over Corbiere's weight, he is receiving only 9lb from Burrough Hill Lad — is perhaps understandable considering he is set to receive 38lb from his stable companion in a Warwick handicap next week but Corbiere has proved himself considerably better at Aintree than anywhere else and is not badly handicapped

with those that ran in the National last year.

For instance, he can meet last year's winner, Halo Dandy, who beat him five and a half lengths, on a stone better terms, the second, Greasepaint, who beat him a length and a half, on 1lb better terms, and the fourth, Lucky Vane, two and a half lengths behind him, on 4lb better terms.

Interestingly, Corbiere and Greasepaint meet on exactly the same terms as in 1983, when Corbiere beat his rival by three-quarters of a length.

Greasepaint looks to have a very good chance with 10st 13lb and one's immediate reaction is to make him the pick of the weights, which as can be seen on closer examination is not quite correct, but stories that trainer Dermot Weld has acquired about John Francome's services, if correct, will ensure that this Irish 10-year-old is well backed. Greasepaint is being specially trained for the race and will have three outings beforehand, starting at Leopardstown on Saturday.

"Greasepaint meets Drumlanigan 6lb worse than he would in Irish handicaps so I don't really regard him as well handicapped," said Weld. "But my main complaint is that Burrough Hill Lad has been fired into the weights. He should have had much more."

Halo Dandy had the fast



JENNY PITMAN... relying on Corbiere again

ground he relishes last year and unless he gets a similar surface it is hard to see him winning again with 10lb extra but, of course, he does jump well which is of paramount importance in this race.

Lucky Vane, who recently gave Corbiere 6lb and beat him a length at Cheltenham would appear to be nicely treated on this season's form but his jumping is his weakness and trainer Toby Balding concedes: "John Burke said he would have won last year but for taking the fourth from home by the roots. But my previous National winner, Highland Wedding, was also a bit of a misser" and Lucky

Vane gives me a similar feel. I think he will win if he doesn't make any major errors."

Of those without Aintree experience West Tip, with 10st 1lb, makes some appeal. He jumps economically and stays all day and as an eight-year-old is just beginning to attain the height of his powers. Another younger horse tackling the National fences for the first time is the nine-year-old classified, who is reasonably treated with 10st 7lb. He is essentially a two-miler, a half-miler but, curiously, such horses tend to get the trip at Aintree.

Christopher Mordant, the handicapper, will be widely regarded as having made a pretty good job of a very difficult task and he said it was the worst race he had ever had to assess.

"I tried to strike a balance of not being unnecessarily hard on the top horses and still achieving a fair handicap," he said. "On some form Burrough Hill Lad is well in even with 12st 5lb, which I consider a racing weight. One must remember that the handicapper for the National is a special one."

It is certainly true that Mordant has done his best to encourage both Burrough Hill Lad and Wayward Lad to run and in that he could be accused of promoting the race at the expense of some of the more moderate entries.

In strict handicapping terms he has let Burrough Hill Lad in lightly. Wayward Lad was given a 10lb beating by the Gold Cup winner at Wetherby last month but has only a 5lb pull. On the other hand no one in his right mind would put Burrough Hill Lad only 4lb ahead of Corbiere in terms of absolute merit.

But the Dickinsons have unhappy memories of the National — their Winter Rain was killed a few years ago — and it has never been their race. J. Underwood, Wayward Lad was entered only at the owner's insistence and when it comes to running the Dickinsons are much more likely to have their way.

"The only way I would consider running Burrough Hill Lad would be if he fell at the first in the Gold Cup," said Mrs Pitman, and catering for such an eventually the bookmakers are quoting him at 6-1 with a run.

# Corporal Clinger set for Newbury

Leith Hill Flyer, who has found a new lease of life since joining Philip Mitchell's Epsom stable last September, completed a hat-trick at Windsor yesterday in the Holyport Handicap Chase and may run again at Towcester this afternoon.

The odds-on favourite, The Foodbroker, was disputing the lead, with Leith Hill Flyer going to the third last but an in-different jump put paid to his chances. Although Leith Hill Flyer jumped to the left at the last he still had enough in hand to win by two lengths.

Actor Oliver Reed has a half share in Leith Hill Flyer, who was once retired from racing and used a back by Reed's girlfriend. The 11-year-old has suffered all sorts of injuries to his legs and back and has made a remarkable comeback.

Corporal Clinger earned himself a place in the Schweppes field with a game length victory over Diddelo in the Copper Horse Handicap Hurdle.

Malistrano had the field well strung at one stage, but Corporal Clinger moved up swinging for home and took over two furlongs out, and Leith kept him going well to hold the persistent challenge of the runner-up.

Corporal Clinger has 9st 5lb at Newbury but must carry the minimum 10 stone plus a further 5lb if Leith, who cannot do the weight, is allowed to ride. Ladbrokes' offer of 1-1 does not, therefore, look particularly generous.

At Hereford, trainer John Edwards saddled another Schweppes runner, Bob Tisdall, to beat Gala's Image by a length in the Fred Rimell Hurdle.

At Towcester this afternoon Greenbank Park (3.30), who divided Sommerer and West Tip at Newbury last time, has the form to win the Yardley Gobion Handicap Chase, while I expect Reberg (4.0) to go well in the concluding Mill House Handicap Hurdle.

Chris Hawkins

# How the handicapper weights them...

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|---|-------------------------|----|---|---|---|----------------------|
| GRAND NATIONAL (Liverpool, 41 miles, 12.15) | Staye Bolt (J. Gifford) | 12 | 9 | 7 | 7 | Hammam (W. A. Jones) |
| Wayward Lad (Mrs J. Pitman)                 | Staye Bolt (J. Gifford) | 12 | 9 | 7 | 7 | Hammam (W. A. Jones) |
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| Corbiere (Mrs J. Pitman)                    | Staye Bolt (J. Gifford) | 12 | 9 | 7 | 7 | Hammam (W. A. Jones) |
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